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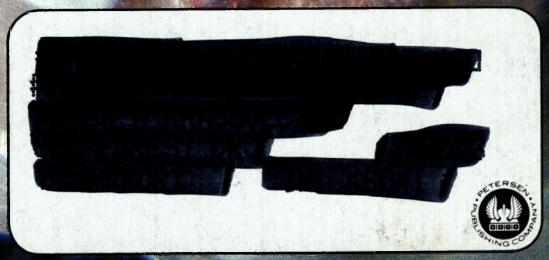
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COVER

The bright red squirrelfish, one of the most common, yet most fascinating, occupants of the coral reef, is often found hovering just outside small crevices or overhangs. For more on this fish see page 26. Photo/Geri Murphy.

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SDM Editorial

BY BILL GLEASON

'TIS THE SEASON TO GET OUT OF SHAPE

Across the country, the leaves have turned and fall is full upon us. The ocean has turned cold and stormy and many divers have meticulously cleaned and stored their dive equipment. Having taken good care of their dive gear, they then begin to neglect and abuse their most important asset—their bodies!

The season to get out of shape has arrived. These trim, healthy divers, who handled themselves so confidently on the last dive of this season, may be confronted with a bewildering set of problems on their next dive six months from now. For instance, her tank seems to weigh 20 pounds more. And, although it feels heavier, it just doesn't seem to hold as much air as the one she used last year. Then there are the new fins he liked so much, bought in the middle of last summer: Now they make his leg muscles scream for relief!

These are common problems many divers face after a long winter layoff. They are all caused by being out of shape, and no time of the year is better for getting out of shape than winter. Consider the great opportunities this season holds in store:

1. Partying over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's: This will cause your scale to register you as weighing five or ten pounds heavier, as if by magic. No matter how well you've taken care of your wetsuit, it's just not fair to ask it to stretch that much more next spring!

2. Snow or rain for at least a couple of days: What a great excuse to write off exercising for six months! After all, we know the reason we drank that six pack while watching the Super Bowl was because it was cold outside.

Failing to exercise will decrease your ability to dive comfortably. Increased fatigue, heavy air consumption and leg cramps do not make diving enjoyable. People who get out of shape every winter find it harder to get in shape every spring and finally just give up diving.

The best time to combat the winter layoff problem is before winter begins—that means right now. A resolution to stay in shape or get back in shape will be more effective now than it will be in April. Starting and maintaining an exercise program through the winter will find you fit and eager to start diving next spring.

Divers often write and ask, "What's the best exercise for staying in good shape for diving?" The answer, quite simply, is to dive as frequently as possible. No alternate form of exercise uses exactly the same muscles. And, while bad weather can prevent us from open water diving during the winter, there are a host of other diving opportunities available. What about advanced training, done primarily in your local pool? Many dive stores have developed advanced certification programs in areas such as rescue and U/W photography. You get a chance to master a new diving skill and you get to use your equipment a few times. That's not bad when it's -10°F outside.

In addition to that occasional dip in the pool, a regular series of workouts will help. An ideal workout program would cover two basic areas.

1. Maintain and increase your aerobic capacity—a healthy heart and lungs are musts for a diver!

2. Strengthen the muscles you use when diving—this means the upper leg muscles primarily.

Does your current fitness plan fulfill these two general goals? Let's get specific; aerobic fitness must be maintained by a minimum 30 minute workout at least three times per week—exercise that raises your pulse/heart rate to 60-80 percent of your maximum and maintains it for one-half hour. (Maximum heart rate is defined as a guideline for aerobic fitness and can be figured by subtracting your age from 220. For the average diver, age 35, maximum heart rate is 185; 60 percent of that equals 111 beats per minute and 80 percent equals 148.) In order to exercise effectively, your heart rate (measured by taking your pulse while you exercise) should be between 111 and 148. If you're new to the exercise game, start slowly and don't try to be a triathlete overnight. Remember, doing anything is better than being a couch potato. Few people have maintained their aerobic fitness while watching TV, unless they're rowing or riding a stationary bike at the same time.

The type of aerobic exercise you choose doesn't make much difference. Running is great and so is such popular exercise equipment as Nordic-Track and Life-Cycles. Nearly 100 percent of all aerobic exercises involve the upper legs and these muscles (the quadriceps and hamstrings) are the work horses for diving as well. Maintaining a strong pair of legs and your cardiac fitness will go a long way toward making that first dive next season a great experience.

If you want to get into super diving shape you'll have to find a pool. Swimming is great exercise, but pay particular attention to your pulse rate. You may find you'll have to swim pretty long and hard to get a great aerobic workout. Swimming with fins, with the legs doing all the work, is the closest we can get to the perfect diving exercise short of actually diving. Remember though, since you're on top of the water, use the same guidelines for swimming that you use for aerobic exercise; at least 30 minutes three times a week. But, be content with 60-65 percent of your maximum heart rate for aerobic swimming conditioning.

Exercise, for most people, is boring. I couldn't agree more. But, health clubs and home fitness equipment have progressed to the point where it's not as boring as it once was. Cross-conditioning, or training in several different areas, cuts down on boredom because it seems you're always doing something new. Instead of just bicycling for 30 minutes, try eight minutes of rowing, eight minutes of Nordic-Track, eight minutes on a jogging treadmill and finish up with eight minutes on the bike. Throw in some swimming and you've got enough combinations to keep you going for awhile.

Make that New Year's resolution right now. Hit the water next spring in shape, with good cardiac fitness. You'll be a better and more relaxed diver because of it.

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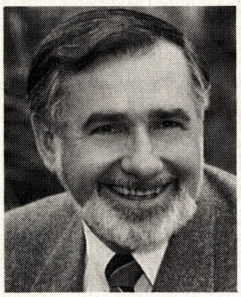


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SDM Editorial

BY PAUL J. TZIMOULIS

PLAYING IT SAFE

Avoiding accidents is unquestionably one of the major concerns of the diving community. At times it seems as though we are preoccupied with the subject and, perhaps, rightly so. Because we are involved with an alien environment that can sometimes be harsh or unpredictable, we must constantly strive for near perfection.

Few sportsmen are as conscientious about safety as the diving community. Scuba instructors devote the major portion of their training to safety. The textbooks are loaded with plans, procedures and rules that are all safety oriented. The equipment we wear today is basically designed with safety as the primary consideration, and most innovations such as BCs and octopus rigs are the outgrowth of accident prevention efforts.

Yet, with all of this emphasis and attention to scuba safety, there is still only one effective way of avoiding or preventing accidents. The key is the individual diver—you. You must be totally aware of the situation around you and fully know yourself. Accidents don't just happen, nor are they a result of bad luck. Psychologists who study accidents have discovered there are certain causative factors that frequently form a pattern. Many seemingly senseless or idiotic mistakes may actually have a very logical origin. People often do stupid things because they are not thinking straight or are not themselves. Being aware of distractions or abnormal influences can be the key to preventing an accident. Here are just a few ways that you can dive defensively and, perhaps, avoid an accident:

Be properly equipped. If you discover that a vital piece of dive gear is broken or you have forgotten to bring it along, abort the dive or at least postpone it until you can borrow a replacement. Going into the water with a broken submersible pressure gauge or minus a depth gauge is really asking for trouble.

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Keep your gear in working order. There is nothing more upsetting or distracting than a regulator that starts free-flowing or acting funny in the middle of a deep dive. Keep your regulator in good repair and well tuned. Also, check your BC frequently for airtight integrity and make sure your gauges are accurate.

Avoid drugs and drinking prior to diving. Narcotics and alcohol severely reduce your ability to react quickly in an emergency. They also impair good judgement and are frequently the root of human error. Even a hangover from the previous night can severely affect your ability to dive. Recurring waves of nausea, dizziness and vertigo underwater can lead to tragedy.

Get plenty of rest. Fatigue is one of the major causes of errors, poor judgement and poor coordination. A sleepless night can lead to many mistakes.

Don't rush. Many dive accidents begin on the boat or beach. A diver who is hurriedly suiting up for the dive can frequently make mistakes or become forgetful. A regulator is not properly seated on a tank valve and blows an O-ring in the middle of a dive. A hose is not connected to a BC inflator; a compass is forgotten; a tank strap is not buckled properly. Don't let anyone rush you. Take your time and do it right.

Use a pre-dive checklist. Most professional divers use some kind of pre-dive checklist—some do it mentally while others refer to an actual written list. Checklists are simple but effective reminders. Airline pilots use them faithfully.

Beware of emotional stress within yourself. Depression, worry or brooding can be extremely distracting. You find yourself making little mistakes because you are not thinking about what you are doing. Anger or frustration can make you impatient or careless. These are times when you must be particularly careful in your dive preparations. Force yourself to concentrate on your diving and leave your troubles on the surface.



One of the ways to avoid accidents is to abort dives when conditions are poor.

Don't be afraid to abort a dive. Some people feel embarrassed about calling off a dive because they are afraid of what others might think. If the conditions appear dangerous or you are not feeling well, don't be shy about canceling the dive. Chances are others may silently feel exactly the same way.

Don't become overconfident. Veteran divers are especially vulnerable to this hazard. Because they go diving in the same place and in the same way repeatedly, the routine becomes repetitious and almost boring. After awhile, they become lax about safety procedures; start diving without a BC; never bother to take along a pressure gauge; or many even dive alone. And, sooner or later, the odds catch up with them.

Stay in shape. Just because you are an experienced diver don't kid yourself into thinking you can outsmart the rigors of open water diving. It takes stamina and strength to cope with strong currents, heavy surge or big surf. There is no substitute for regular exercise and either diving or swimming on a regular basis is one of the best ways to do it.

There is nothing new in what has been stated so far. Most of it is just common sense taught in every basic scuba class. Accident avoidance is solely dependent upon you being fully aware of the situation around you and being fully prepared to handle any conceivable emergency. Accident avoidance is strictly up to you, so why not dive defensively?

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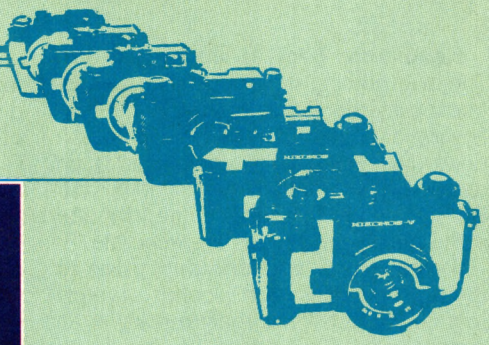
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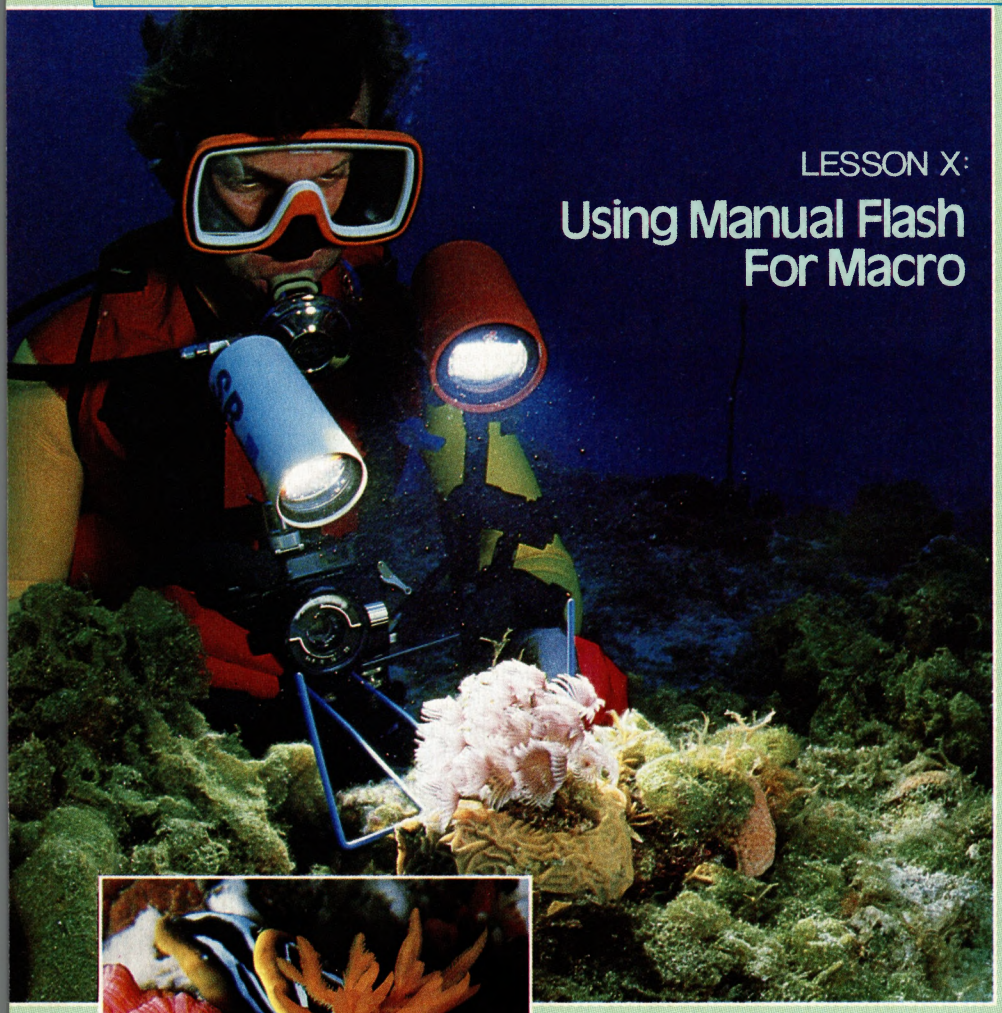
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SDM'S **Nikonos Photo Course**





LESSON X:

Using Manual Flash For Macro

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

In macro U/W photography, the flash is everything. Ambient light has no effect as the pictures are a result of flash illumination only. This is why the choice and use of flash is so important. It is not mandatory for you to have a flash specifically designed for macro photography, but it helps. Why? Because a small flash will allow you to get into tight places where macro creatures often live. Such places include: narrow crevices, small overhangs, tiny caves or holes in the reef and small spaces among coral structures.

FLASH EXPOSURE METHODS

There are two basic exposure methods for macro U/W photography—manual and TTL automatic. There are strobes for both. Don't be misled by the word automatic. TTL requires a basic understanding of manual flash technique. In some ways, it is more complex and, therefore, harder to understand than manual exposure. It is the limitations of TTL exposure that tend to confuse photographers.

It is important to understand how both



In macro photography, flash is everything: The exposure is totally dependent on illumination from the strobe. Manual flash has some advantages over TTL automatic—however, TTL strobes can operate in manual mode.



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that will be perfect for enlarging and framing.

Macro Photography. Your exploration reveals that the most colorful and intriguing life on the reef are the tiny animals that live among the tentacles of anemones and crevices of corals. There is no need to be frustrated by the smallness of these potential subjects. Even they are capable of being photographed if you employ the right tools. The Nikonos-V System can be used with extension tubes for exciting macro photographic reproductions up to twice life size. Nikonos TTL Speedlights take the exposure guesswork out of macro photography. Simply frame your subject and shoot. These incredibly bizarre details are all captured in sharp, colorful renditions—producing a favorite topic of conversation with friends.





Nikonos Technique Magazine

Of course underwater photography is a subjective art form that is based on technical skills. You will want to expand your knowledge and improve your skills. Nikon introduces NIKONOS TECHNIQUE magazine—an educational publication for underwater photographers of all skill levels and authored by the best professional underwater photographers in the world. See the exciting world beneath the sea through the lenses of these great pros and find out how they capture their results. Look for Nikonos Technique magazine at your Nikon dealer.



Nikonos-V: Above and below the surface. The Nikonos-V is a camera that can be used topside as well—365 days a year. Because it is rugged, waterproof, and automatic, it is the perfect camera for boating, skiing, rafting or at the beach.

Capture the adventure. Now that you know what tools you need to capture the adventure and excitement of diving, see your Nikonos dealer for help in getting you started in underwater photography now. Soon your images will be decorating the walls of your home or office. Your friends will be able to share in the adventure with you and will be intrigued and impressed with your new skills.

Be sure to ask your Nikonos dealer to tell you about the special free offer when you buy a Nikonos-V. Turn the page for more information.

The Nikonos-V system.

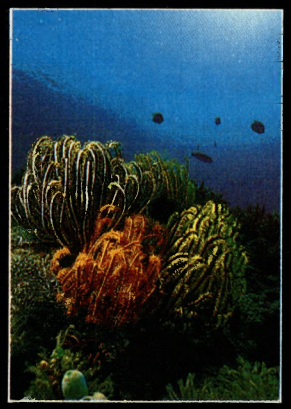
The Adventure of Diving.

It's a story about new discoveries. As you slip beneath the water's surface, you instantly realize that you have entered a world that defies description. Exploration reveals hundreds of new discoveries that evoke a feeling of appreciation for the natural beauty around you. Only photographs can convey your exhilaration to friends back home. Whether you are a novice or an advanced diver you won't want to miss any of the incredible details of a coral reef. You will want the best camera system in the world for this job.

Nikonos-V—advanced electronic technology in an easy to use system. Automatic TTL (Through The Lens) flash exposure control for fast, accurate results; manual shutter speeds for creative control; large, bright viewfinder with LED exposure information and the most accurate light meter ever in an underwater camera make taking pictures easy and rewarding.



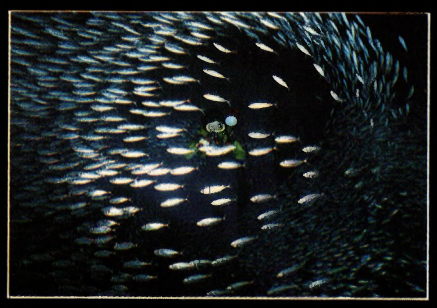
The colors are incredible. There are simply no names for some of these shades. You wonder if your photographs will capture the vivid red corals and purple sponges or the subtle markings of the multi-hued fish. You need an underwater flash—one that will record the natural tones of these spectacular colors at the proper exposure and give you even lighting coverage over the entire frame.



Nikonos SB-102 & SB-103 Speedlights. Revolutionary TTL auto flash exposure control, plus three manual power settings. The Nikonos-V reads the light that actually strikes the film and shuts off the Speedlight at the moment of precise exposure. A compact, and accurate exposure system that makes taking colorful underwater pictures easy—even for novices.

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Announcing The Great Nikonos-V/Pan Am Buy and Fly Adventure.

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Take off on this great Buy and Fly offer and take hundreds of dollars off the cost of visiting your favorite dive location. Where do you long to go—the Caribbean? Hawaii? The Red Sea? Now, the world's most exotic dive locations are within your reach. Why wait?

All you do is buy a Nikonos-V and a round trip ticket to the Pan Am diving location of your choice. Or choose other exciting destinations such as Europe, Mexico, even Russia. You can enjoy the excitement and adventure of diving in the location of your dreams and save half the cost on one of the round trip tickets that take you there.

So, if you can't wait to dive in one of the world's great dive locations, buy your Nikonos-V and your tickets now and take off on your Buy and Fly adventure.

Offer good from October 1, 1987 to January 31, 1988. Travel must be completed by December 15, 1988. Offer applies to Nikonos-V and these other Nikon cameras: N4004, N2020, One-Touch®, Tele-Touch Deluxe, Fun-Touch, Action-Touch. See your Nikon dealer for further details and restrictions.

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Flash brings out both the bright and subtle colors of your subject. Manual flash offers better exposure control when two strobes are used, when slight over or underexposure is desired and in back or sidelit situations.



systems work. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages. It is also important to remember that manual exposure is the primary method. It can be used with any type of underwater flash.

BENEFITS OF MANUAL FLASH

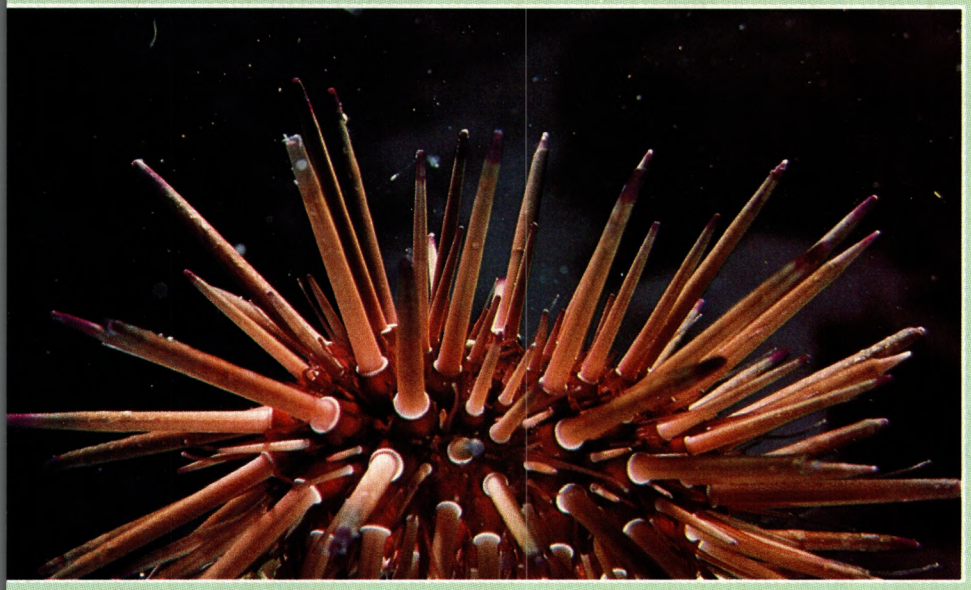
Strange as it may sound, manual flash has some distinct advantages over TTL. But, it should also be remembered that all TTL units can operate in the manual exposure mode. The first advantage of manual flash is price. These units tend to be a bit less expensive than TTL models because they are of an older design, less complex and require only a three wire sync cord.

Manual flash will work with any Nikonos camera, even the original. TTL flash will only work in the TTL mode with the Nikonos V, the only Nikonos that has TTL flash exposure circuitry.

Manual flash units allow the use of special quick disconnect underwater connectors, such as the EO or the Nelson. TTL strobes cannot function with this type of connector because they require a five wire sync cord.

Manual flash allows better control for shots that need slight over or underexposure. It affords better control in back or sidelit situations.

Manual flash also offers better exposure control when two strobes are used or when slave flash is used. Manual flash allows you to vary the lighting ratios of a multi-strobe set-up. For example, one manual flash can be set at a distance of 7 inches on the left side while the slave is set at 10 inches on the right side. The result is a double lit subject with slight shadow on the right.



MANUAL STROBES FOR MACRO

As indicated earlier, any size underwater strobe can be used for macro. If you cannot afford to purchase a small strobe just for macro work, use the one you have. It will probably work fine but may be a bit bulky at times. There are, however, a select group of small strobes that are ideally suited for macro photography. Their advantages are as follows:

1) Lightweight for easy carrying and easy handling.

2) Compact for convenient carrying and getting into tight places such as narrow coral crevices, horizontal ledges and small caves.

3) Faster recycle time because of lower power requirements.

4) Narrow beam angle for better control of top and back lighting.

5) Less expensive initial investment.

NON-TTL STROBES--MANUAL FLASH ONLY

Mfg.	Model	Head size (Diameter)	Beam Angle (Degrees)	U/W Guide Number ISO 64	Color Temp.	Power Source	No. Flashes	Recycle Time (Seconds)
Aquacraft II	MCD-1	6 x 3.25"	55*	16	5,800°K	2 C cells	150	5
	MCD-3	6 x 3.25"	55*	22	5,800°K	2 C cells	100	7
Ikelite	Substrobe M	4.5 x 3.5"	65	16	5,800°K	4 AA cells	250	5
	Substrobe MS	4.5 x 3.5"	65	16	5,800°K	4 AA cells	250	5
Helix	Aquaflash 28	6 x 5"	70*	32	5,600°K	6 AA cells	80	10
				16+			320+	3+
Oceanic	OS2000	4.75 x 3.75"	65	16	5,800°K	2 C cells	350	6
Sea & Sea	YS-50	6.25 x 4.5 "	70*	22	5,400°K	4 AA cells	250	10
Sonic Research	SR-2000	6 x 2.75"	55*	14	6,000°K	Built-in rechargeables	300	3
	SR-3000	6 x 2.75"	55*	11	6,000°K	2 AA cells	250	8

* Beam spreader available for expanded angle of coverage.
+ 1/4 power setting.

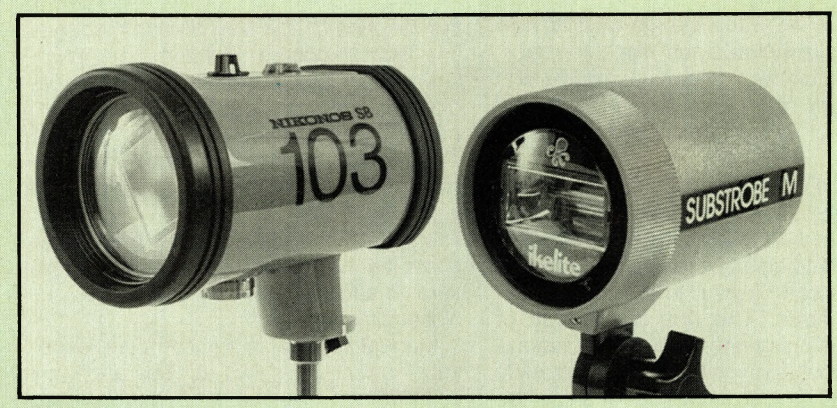
NON-TTL STROBES

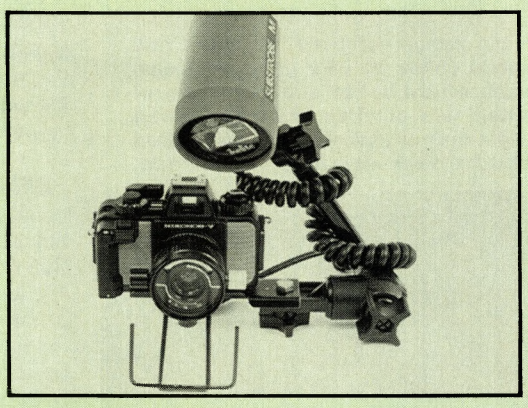
The following companies offer small strobes that are well suited for macro photography:

Aquacraft	MCD-1 mini strobe
	MCD-3 mini strobe
Ikelite	Substrobe M
	Substrobe MS
Helix	Aquaflash 28
Oceanic	Oceanic 2000
Sea & Sea	YS-50
Sonic Research	SR-2000
	SR-3000

SELECTING A NON-TTL STROBE FOR MACRO

First let me say that all of the underwater strobes listed for macro work very well. There is no such thing as the best macro model, the choice will depend largely on your personal requirements. The trick is to select a strobe that is best for what you plan to do. Before making the choice you may wish to review the advantages of TTL units as well. There





There are two basic flash exposure systems for underwater macro photography—TTL automatic exposure and non-TTL manual exposure. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages, yet manual exposure is the primary method in macro.



There are approximately seven different manual mini strobes on the U.S. market, manufactured and distributed by six companies.

are seven basic considerations that will help you determine your choice of flash:

Flash Size: The size of the strobe isn't one of the most important selection criteria unless you intend to do lots of close work with a 1:1 or 2:1 extension tube and framer. This close, the size of the strobe head does become critical and you'll need to give it some consideration.

Beam Angle: Underwater macro is the one type of photography where a narrow beam angle can be desirable. It allows better control of back or side lighting. A wide beam angle offers no advantage in macro shooting since the intended area of coverage is very small.

Power Output: Power output can be an important consideration since all exposures should be made at f/22. Power output is generally measured in a Guide Number (GN) for a specific film speed.

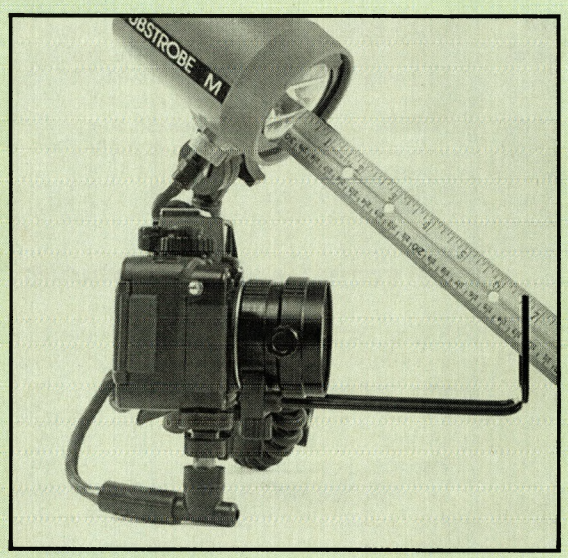
Color Temperature: The color temperature of the flash can be an important consideration as it will affect the look of your photos. The color temperature of daylight film (either slide or print) is set at 5,500° Kelvin. If you want to match the film temperature, your flash should come within 200 to 300 degrees of this number. However, some macro photographers prefer to enhance the look of their macro shots by using a warmer or cooler temperature flash. Cooler temperature flash units are excellent for enhancing macro shots with blue or purple subjects. Warmer temperature flash units are good for enhancing macro photos with red or orange subjects. This is why there is such a wide range of color temperatures among underwater flash units.

Power Source: The type of power source used by the flash is an important consideration among divers. Rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries are less expensive in the long run because the batteries can be charged over and over again at little cost.

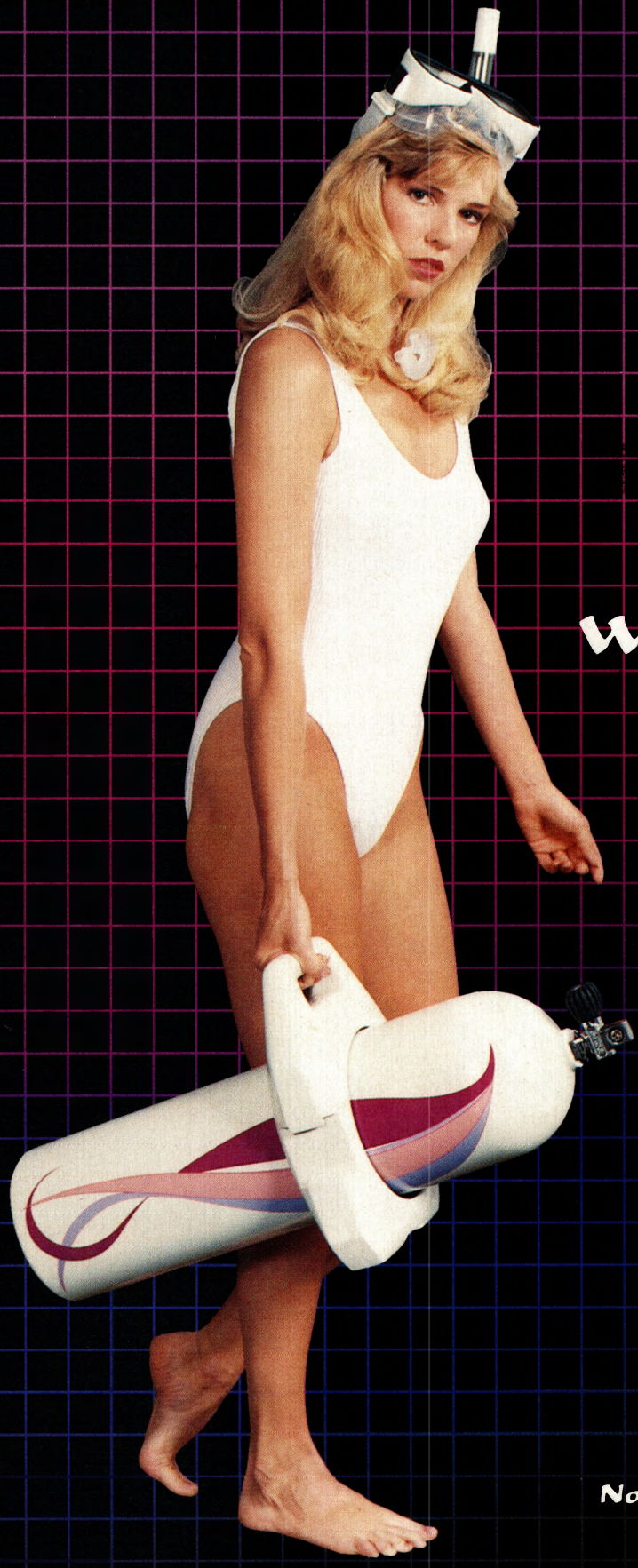
Flash units using dry cell batteries are more desirable where charging is either difficult or non-existent. Such situations include travel to remote dive destinations where there is no electricity or where the electrical current is different than that in the U.S. There are also many divers who prefer not to deal with the nightly chore of charging batteries.

Number of Flashes: The number of flashes per charge or for a set of batteries is another important consideration. This dictates how many rolls of film you may shoot before changing or charging the batteries. Remember that macro requires total flash, which means one flash per

(Continued on Page 48)



Correct exposure for non-TTL strobes is achieved by carefully measuring the actual distance from the strobe head to the center of the wire framer. Once you have measured the distance a few times you will begin to notice a relationship between the position of the flash head and the position of the camera body. Soon you will be able to set up the system by just "eyeballing" the distance.



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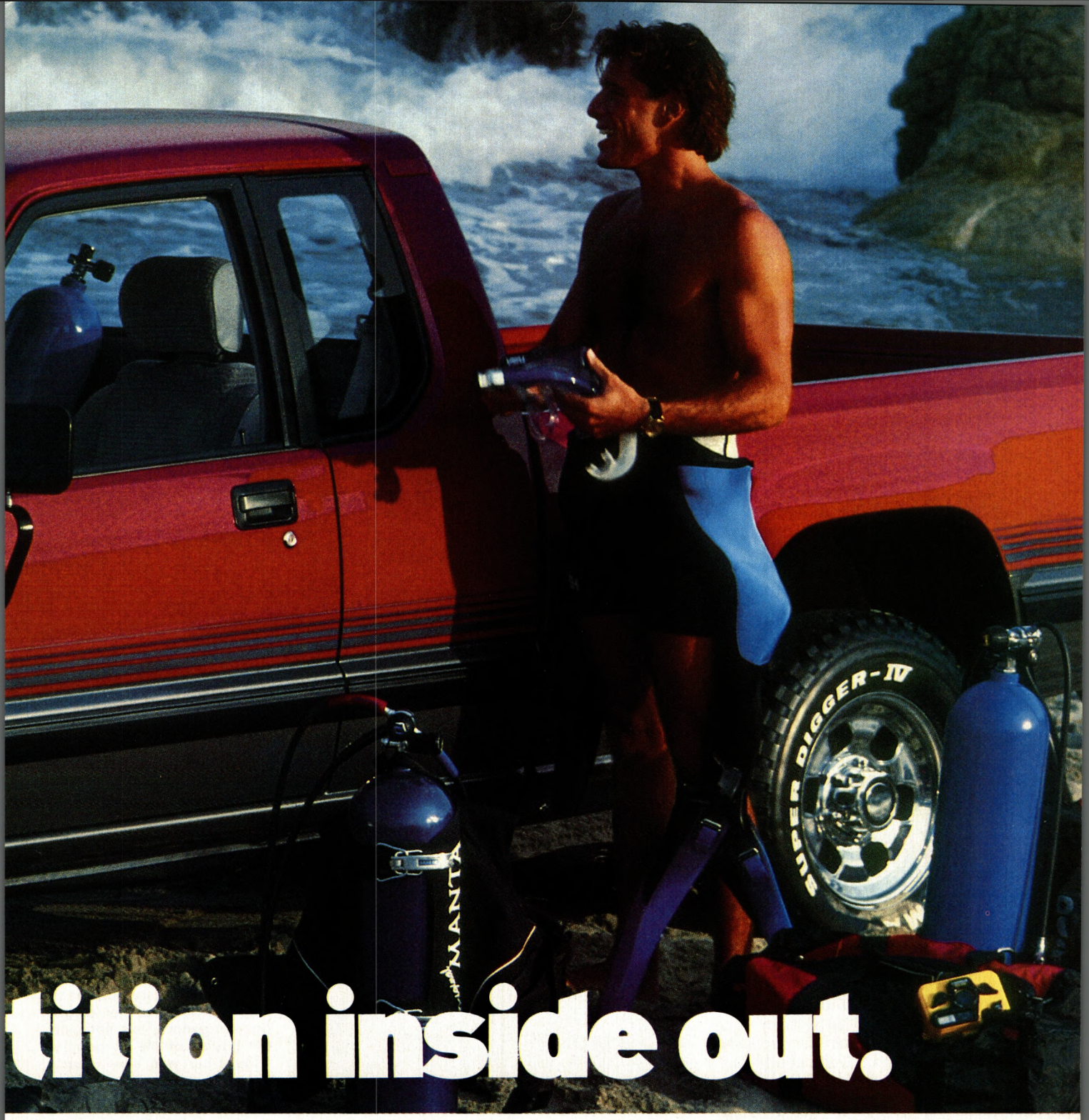
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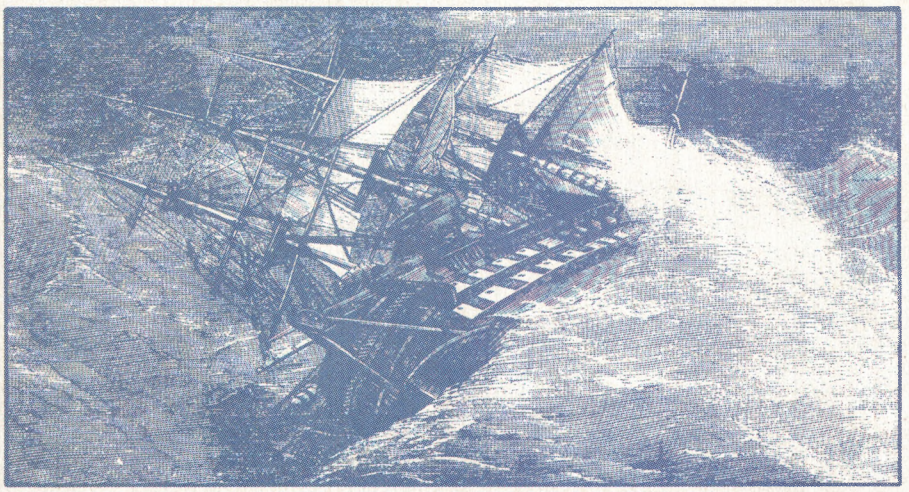
*All comparisons are to base 1987 models (1988 competitive data incomplete at time of printing).

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Wreck Facts

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

After writing this monthly column for four years or thereabouts, I found myself waiting for the drought. Sooner or later, I thought, I would run out of things to say about shipwrecks. The well would run dry. But, I was wrong! Would you believe I've got enough information and letters to compile two years' worth of columns with more coming in every week?! Letters and clippings continue to pour in from every state in the union and more than 40 foreign countries.

For instance, Monica Foster writes from Rabaul, Papua New Guinea that she is progressing on her book, *Rabaul's Forgotten Fleet*. She says there haven't been any volcanic eruptions lately, her husband is finishing off a 40 foot trimaran and they still find time to explore their favorite wrecks.

John Van Heerden, Republic of South Africa, sent information about Johannesburg divers searching for the iron paddle steamer, HMS *Birkenhead*, sunk in 1852 off South Africa. The ship carried 479 soldiers, 125 crew, 56 civilians and 240,000 gold coins. There were 116 survivors, but the gold—to be used as payment for troops fighting the Kaffir War in South Africa—went down with the ship.

Larry Anders sends greetings from Holstebro, Denmark where he has met Normann Andersen, who specializes in shipwrecks along Denmark's west coast. Andersen is working with the Danish National Museum, recovering artifacts from the *St. George*, an English warship built in 1765 and sunk in 1811. She cradled 98 cannons on three gun decks and rests in less than 40 feet of water.

Bertil Magnusson, Skillingaryd, Sweden says he found an English wreck while diving off Sri Lanka. Sailing from London, the *Rangoon* went down in 1863 in 100 feet of water. Bertil is now searching for the *Malabar*, a late 1800s wreck sunk near Galle, Sri Lanka.

Hans Neukomn, Munich, West Germany does a lot of diving off the French coast in the Mediterrean, where wreck diving is very popular. There are at least ten shipwrecks—all within eight miles of the coast—that dive boats visit regularly. Hans also dives the Bavaria and Munich areas and has catalogued many European ships in his wreck data collection.

Divers are envious of Patrice Enault, Normandy, France who lives near Cherbourg's D-Day beaches of World War II. He is filming and writing about the U.S. Navy warships wrecked during the D-Day landing off the Normandy coast. Some of his favorites are the *Glennon*, *Corry*, *Meredith*, *Rich* and *Tide*.

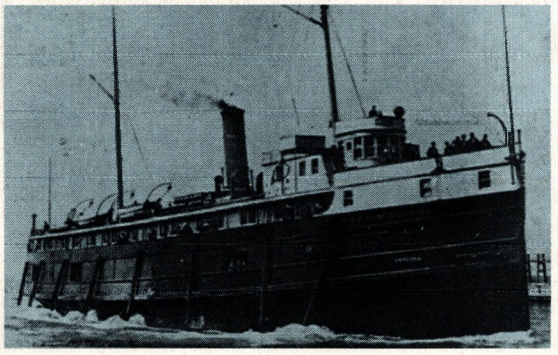
Michael Cannain, Saltzburg, Austria, specializes in shipwrecks of the Mediterranean. Although his computerized data bank contains many wrecks, his favorites are in the Straits of Bonifacio between Corsica and Sardinia. Michael has explored numerous wrecks and still searches for new ones.

Richie Beddoes, my man in Liverpool, is an English sport and commercial diver who has been keeping track of the salvage of the *Ocean Monarch*. Sunk off the coast of North Wales in 1848, the copper bottomed packet ship was the pride of the Diamond Line fleet, owned by Enoch Train, Boston, Massachusetts. Nearly 200 people burned to death or drowned when the ship caught fire. The fire was caused by passengers cooking food below decks. Copper sheathing kept the fire from spreading to lower timbers where a cargo of fine china was stored—destined for buyers in the New World. Divers have retrieved 400 cases of crockery and porcelain, with hopes of bringing up more.

Paul Martino, New Castle, Australia says he has been working on two charts that show names, tonnage, dates of demise and locations of Japanese vessels lost during World War II. The first chart will depict naval vessels while the second will list merchant ships. Both charts are a result of Paul's interest in shipwreck research and artifact recovery.

Klaus Lindemann, author of *Hailstorm Over Truk Lagoon*, writes from his work base, Jakarta, Indonesia, that he has some new Japanese sources revealing virgin shipwrecks off Palau. He might be authoring another book after visiting the States for research in the National Archives and the United States Navy Operational Archives.

Hector Alfano writes from Argentina that he has been diving wrecks off the southern coasts of his country: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Isla de los Estados. While exploring wrecks off the Brazilian coast, he met other divers and formed the Argentina-Brazilian Nautilus Club. Members are working cooperatively to complete a shipwreck data bank that will include underwater photos of all wrecks they've explored.

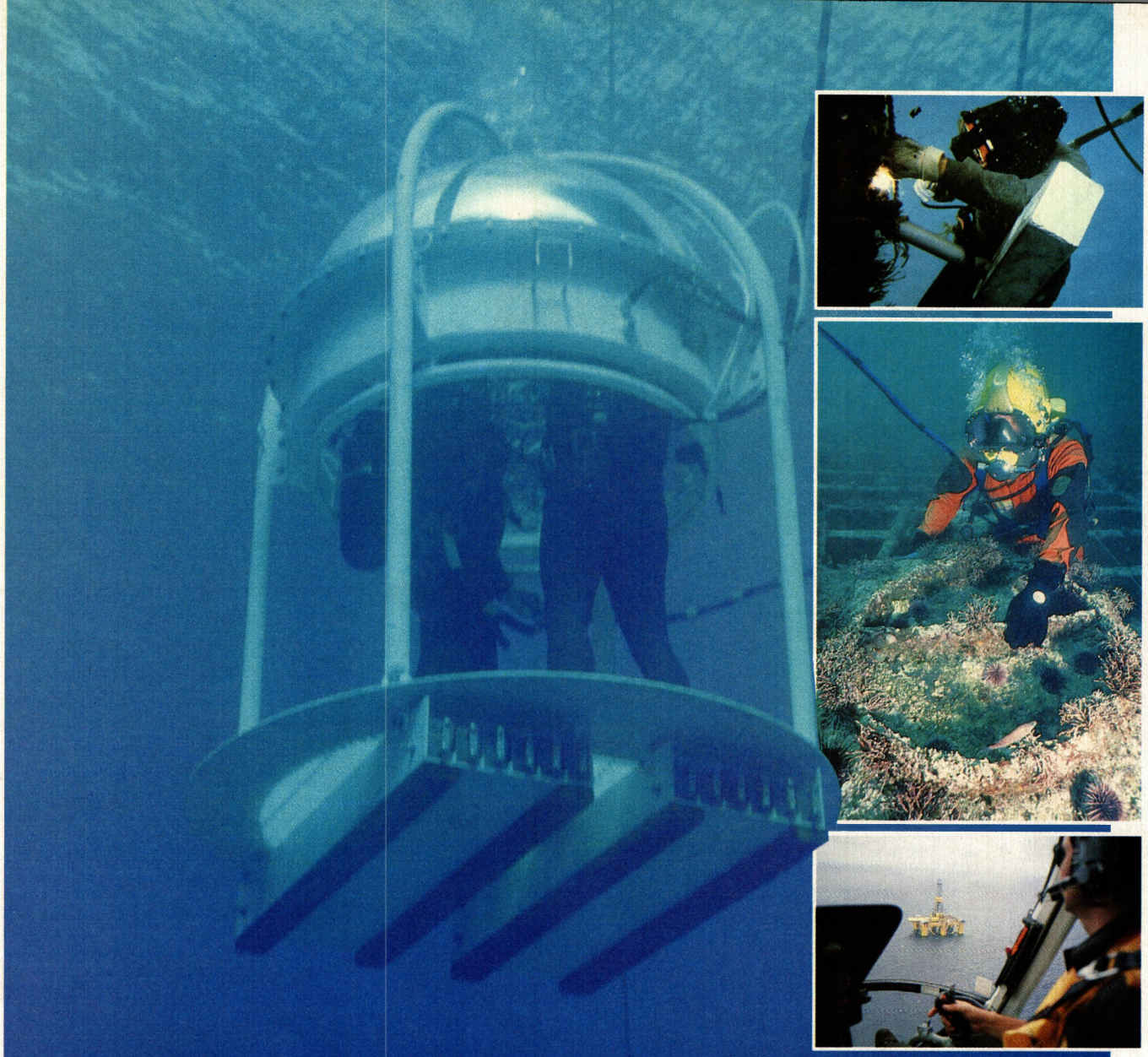


photo/courtesy Jim Levandoski

The "unsinkable" *Chicora* was a 217 foot long passenger-cargo steamer that went down in Lake Michigan in 1895. How and why she sank off Allegan County remains a mystery. Some of her cargo washed ashore, but none of the bodies of the 25 people aboard her was ever found.

Jim Levandoski, Hopkins, Michigan sent me clippings and a photo of the *Chicora*, a passenger-cargo steamer sunk in Lake Michigan, January 1895. Like the *Titanic*, she was proclaimed unsinkable, her stout 217 x 40 foot iron hull built to withstand the fiercest of storms. The sinking of the *Chicora* remains a mystery for historians from Glen Ganges and Saugatuck, Michigan. Part of the ship's cargo

(Continued on Page 160)



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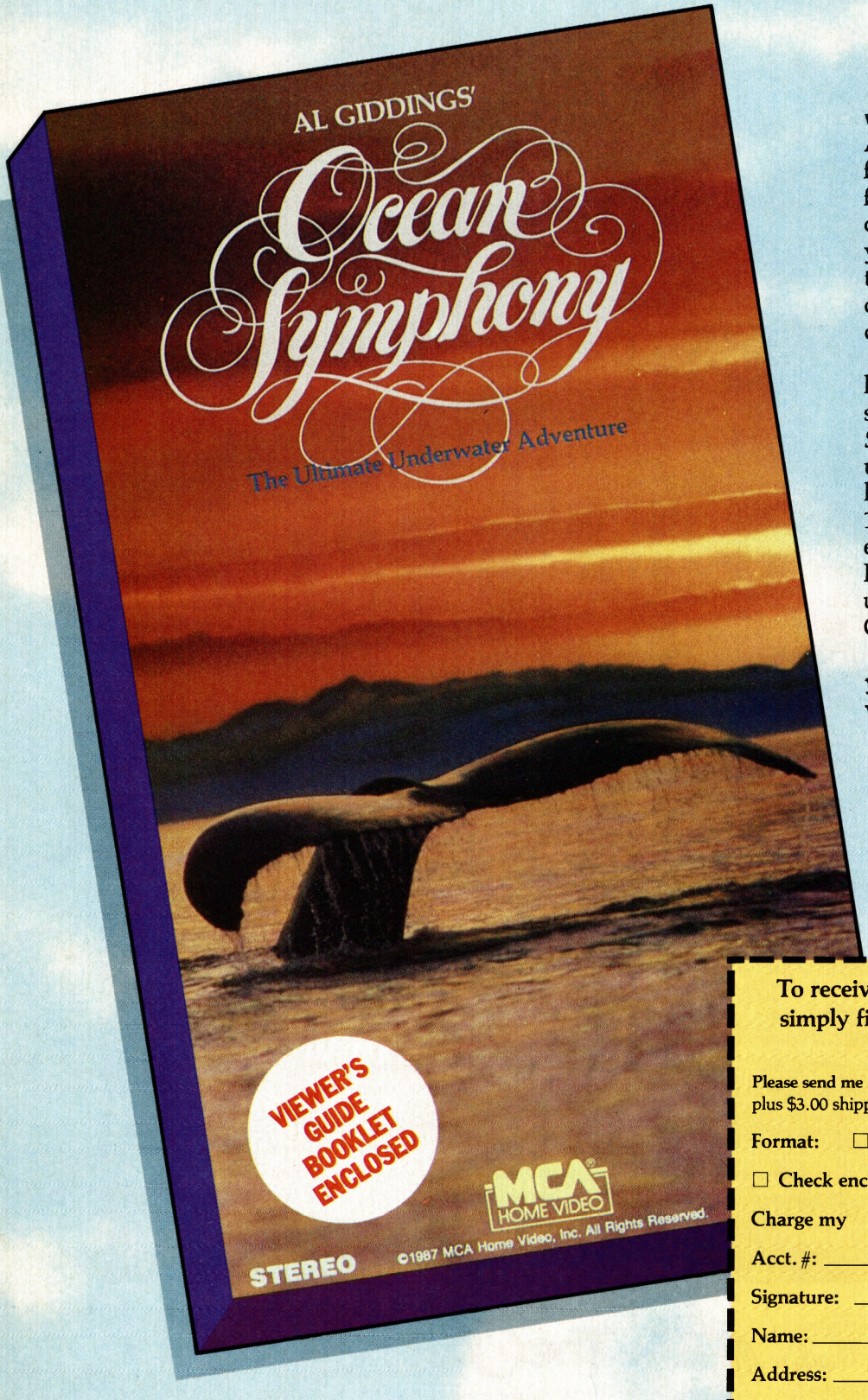
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Scuba Quiz

RESULTS OF SAFE DIVING PRACTICES SURVEY

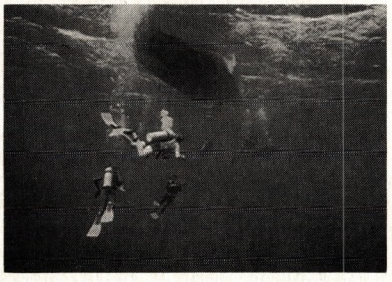
By Dennis Graver

The April 1987 Scuba Quiz consisted of a survey on safe diving practices. Survey returns were received for many months. When the total number of dives reported exceeded 5,000, I compiled the responses, which are very interesting. The results appear below. The survey asked, "During the past two years, how often have you _____?"

1. Dived deeper than 130 feet? This safety rule was violated during 136 of the dives made.

2. Pushed dive tables to the limit? SDM readers risked decompression sickness during 223 of the dives.

3. Made a planned decompression dive? The returns indicate diving practices exceeded recreational diving safety limits for 220 of the dives reported.





In addition to ascending no faster than 60 feet per minute, divers often make a safety stop of 5 minutes at 10 feet. Have you ever timed your ascent rate?

4. Missed required decompression? This occurred during only 7 dives.

5. Ascended faster than 60 feet per minute? Of the dives made, 6.4 percent had ascents that exceeded the standard rate. This is one of the most notable statistics from the survey. In actuality, nearly all divers exceed 60 feet per minute regularly. Have you ever timed your ascent rate?

6. Failed to reference dive tables for a repetitive dive? This occurred during 23 of the dives.



Never fly within 12 hours after diving.

7. Flown within 12 hours after diving? Respondees reported this occurred during 7 of the dives. This statistic is much better than expected.

8. Failed to note bottom time for a dive? On 45 dives, divers forgot to note bottom time.

9. Smoked within 12 hours of a dive? This was the greatest violation of safe diving practices reported. Smoking before diving was reported for 18.5 percent of the dives.

10. Used drugs within 12 hours of a dive? This safety practice was violated on 84 of the dives reported and that is of great concern.

11. Consumed alcohol within 12 hours of a dive? This question posed a problem, because safety was jeopardized on 14 percent of the dives.

12. Dived with a hangover? More problems: A hangover was involved during 70 of the dives.

13. Dived with a cold or illness? This involved 3.2 percent of the dives.

14. Dived at an unfamiliar site without a formal orientation? This is done frequently, but an orientation should be obtained. This was not done on 7.2 percent of the dives.

15. Exited the water alone? This violation of the buddy system occurred on 3.7 percent of the dives.

16. Dived without a flag when it was required or recommended? Divers asked for trouble by not having a flag on 95 such dives.



photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

A dive flag is often recommended.

Scuba Quiz

17. Run out of air while diving? This occurred, fortunately, during only 44 of more than 5,000 dives.

18. Dived without an alternate air source? This was done on 15.5 percent of the dives surveyed.

19. Had your gauges calibrated? Gauges were calibrated 1.75 times per reader for the two year period reported.

20. Completed a diving refresher course? Only ten of the divers responding opted for this valuable training.

21. Completed a diver continuing education course? It was encouraging to discover the average number of courses taken by those responding was 2.7.

22. Had your regulator professionally serviced? More good news: Readers had their regulators serviced an average of two times each for the two year time period reported.

23. Failed to inspect your buddy's equipment prior to a dive? This infraction occurred on 308 of the dives.

24. Entered the water with air off or equipment missing? This was a problem on 60 of the dives.

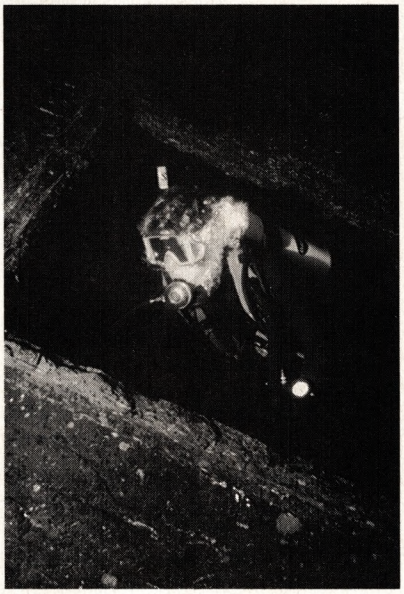
25. Dived under ice without formal training? There were 23 instances of this reported, which is alarming.

26. Dived in a cave without formal training? Even more disturbing, 36 cave dives were made without formal training.



Cave diving requires formal training.





Divers responding to the survey indicated they penetrated wrecks without training on 154 dives. This should never occur: You can become disoriented and lost.

27. Penetrated a wreck without formal training? The statistics keep getting worse. Divers were inside wrecks when they should not have been 154 times!

28. Surfaced with less than 300 psi? This hazardous situation occurred 293 times during the dives reported.

29. Become exhausted while in or underwater? This occurred 73 times to the survey divers, but should never occur while diving.

30. Practiced sharing air? The survey divers practiced this emergency procedure 477 times. That is commendable.

31. Intentionally discarded your weights while diving? This safety action was performed 36 times by those responding to the survey.

32. Dived overweighted? Divers were overweighted for 289 of the dives. This is a dangerous practice.

33. Forced equalization? This was done on only 40 occasions, but that is 40 too many. I have permanent ear damage stemming from using excessive force to clear my ears.

34. Skip-breathed while diving? This was done on 257 dives and is also dangerous because of the carbon dioxide build-up that results.

35. Surfaced down current from the exit point? This occurred 136 times, but can be avoided with proper techniques.

36. Dived with a buddy who was unfamiliar to you? Divers violated this safety rule 371 times.

37. Surfaced more than 100 yards from the intended point? SDM readers had a long swim at the end of more than 80 dives!

RECOMMENDATIONS

For safety's sake, the survey indicates divers need to improve their safe diving practices by:

1. Ascending no faster than 60 feet per minute.
2. Quitting smoking.
3. Avoiding drinking alcohol within 12 hours of diving.
4. Having an alternate air source.
5. Avoiding diving in caves, wrecks and under the ice without formal training.
6. Avoiding skip-breathing (holding each breath for a few seconds to reduce air consumption).
7. Becoming familiar with a buddy before diving together.

Divers are better educated than they have ever been and are aware of what they are supposed to do to be safe. The problem is discipline. Let's all do a better job of adhering to the safety practices of our wonderful recreational activity.

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THE QUIZZICAL SQUIRRELFISH

The squirrelfish is one of the most common—and most fascinating—occupants of the coral reef. More than 100 different species can be found in warm water areas worldwide.

This is a spunky little bright red fish with large eyes, measuring 6 to 12 inches in length. It can move fast and will valiantly defend its territory from invaders. The squirrelfish is usually a solitary creature, observed hovering just outside small coral crevices, caves, niches or overhangs. The fish seem to be spaced apart on the coral reef, each occupying its own private area of perhaps one to two square feet.

During the daytime, the squirrelfish seems to spend its time idly watching the world pass by. Yet, when a diver meanders along the reef, this creature quickly becomes aroused. First, it pops up slightly to view the approaching intruder—gazing at him or her with large, unblinking eyes. But as the diver closes the distance, the timid squirrelfish dashes into its protective lair. If the diver attempts to get within arm's length, the fish's behavior becomes an erratic dance between overpowering curiosity and apprehensive retreat. The schizoid fish darts to and fro, catching momentary glimpses of the diver before disappearing into its hideaway.

On rare occasions, an offering of food will help the squirrelfish overcome its fear of the diver. Small tidbits of fish fillet can be an irresistible temptation to this normally cautious creature. Once the ice is broken, however, one is amazed

(Continued on Page 33)

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY







Diver's Calendar

ARTIFICIAL HABITATS FOR FISHERIES

The Florida Sea Grant College Program will host the fourth annual International Conference on Artificial Habitats for Fisheries **November 2-6** at the Hyatt Regency/Knight Center in Miami, Florida.

For information contact Dr. William Seaman, Florida Sea Grant College Program, Building 803, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; (904) 392-5870.

DAN FUND RAISER BANQUET

The Walt Disney World Dive Club will host its annual banquet **November 6**. Profits from the event will be donated to the Divers Alert Network. There will be door and raffle prizes.

For more information contact WDW Dive Club, c/o Corky Wagner, 2571 Ames Haven Road, Kissimmee, FL 32743; (305) 846-6168.

YMCA SCUBA CONVENTION

The 11th annual YMCA Scuba Convention will be held at the Amberly Suites in Atlanta, Georgia **November 6-8**. A broad range of technical papers and sessions will be presented. A DAN accident seminar will precede the conference.

For information contact YMCA Scuba Convention, 6083-A Oakbrook Parkway, Norcross/Atlanta, GA 30093; (404) 662-5172.

DIVE NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs will host its 11th annual symposium, Dive New Jersey—and Beyond, at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, New Jersey, **November 7**. There will be exhibits, presentations and awards for the winners of an underwater photography contest. The grand door prize will be a dive vacation for two to Grand Cayman courtesy of the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

For more information contact Roy or Deb Sorensen, 1 Lufberry Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Tickets are available through local dive stores or at the door.

GREAT LAKES WRECK FILM FESTIVAL

The Buccaneers' Scuba Diving Club will host its seventh annual Great Lakes Wreck Film Festival **November 7** at Thomas Moore High School Auditorium in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Featured guests will make presentations on three Great Lakes wrecks.

For more information contact Pam Hunt, 132 N. 80th St., Milwaukee, WI 53213; (414) 258-8298 after 5:00 pm.

HART HOUSE REUNION

The Hart House Underwater Club will host its 25th anniversary reunion **November 7** at the Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. There will be a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing.

For information contact Carolyn Liddell (416) 783-1239 (res.) or (416) 491-7440 (bus.)

IQ '87

The 1987 International Conference on Underwater Education (IQ '87) will be held at Rancho Santiago Community College (formerly Santa Ana College) in Santa Ana, California **November 7-8**. There will be presentations, a diver swap meet, film show and a host of other special events. Seminars and workshops will occur November 6 and 9.

For information contact NAUI, P.O. Box 14650, Montclair, CA 91763-1150; (714) 621-5801. For information on the diver swap meet, contact Jim Taylor, 3105 S. Deegan Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92704.

BULL ROAST

The DuPont Employees Skin & Scuba Diving Association will host its second annual Bull Roast **November 14** at St. Elizabeth's Social Hall in Wilmington, Delaware. There will be dinner, entertainment, an artifact display and a slide show.

For information contact Tom Bennett (302) 322-9481.

INWARD TO THE SEA

The 16th annual Inward to the Sea underwater festival will be held **November 14** at George Washington University in downtown Washington, D.C. There will be seminars and a film festival hosted by Jack McKenney.

For information contact Inward to the Sea, P.O. Box 17502, Washington, D.C. 20041-0502; (703) 938-5325.

SHIPWRECKS AND SCUBA

The Bay Area Divers of Ohio will host its annual Shipwrecks and Scuba presentation **November 21** in the Sandusky, Ohio area. Emory Kristof will be the featured speaker and there will be a reception, dinner and displays.

For information contact Joyce Hayward, 1791 CR 296, Bellevue, Ohio 44811; (419) 483-3074.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

R. Duncan Mathewson III and the US Scuba Center will conduct an afternoon underwater archaeology workshop in conjunction with the Atlantic Alliance for Maritime Heritage Conservation **November 21** in Rochester, Michigan. There will also be an evening program on the discovery of the *Atocha*.

For information contact Dr. Heather Sellick at US Scuba Center, 882 South Rochester Road, Rochester, MI 48309; (313) 656-0018.

CATALINA CLEAN-UP

The 1988 Avalon Underwater Clean-Up will be held **January 16** at Catalina Island, California. The harbor, Lover's Cove and the Underwater Park are targeted for the sweep. An awards ceremony (prizes for garbage) will be held in the Casino ballroom. A centennial celebratory coin toss from the Pleasure Pier will be held January 17.

For information contact Bud or Nanci Davis, The Blue Dolphin House, P.O. Box 2605, Avalon, CA 90704; (213) 510-1811.

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Diving Medicine

BY ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

Among the abused drugs that can complicate diving are many that produce either mental depression or excitation. However, the emergence of cocaine as a social drug is producing some interesting and sometimes fatal reactions. Several well known sports figures have died suddenly and unexpectedly after using cocaine. Because of this, I thought it would be worthwhile to discuss this drug and make it clear why it is so very dangerous to use.

Heart attacks in people under the age of 40 are extremely rare. Yet medical literature contains several reports of sudden death—and many accounts of nonlethal heart attacks—following use of cocaine in young people. The effects of cocaine are unpredictable in any individual and thus it is impossible to predict whether a person using the drug will develop heart problems. Some interesting autopsy data in cocaine users demonstrates severe damage to the heart blood vessels; because of premature atherosclerosis, the arteries look more like those of a 60 or 70 year old person than those of someone 20 or 30 years old.

One recently published observation in medical literature indicates that cocaine caused a spasm that blocked an artery supplying the heart and produced a heart attack. Our own experience in cardiac catheterization in young people who have had heart attacks following cocaine use produced the same conclusion.

The blood vessels to the heart are called the coronary arteries. These supply oxygen and nutrients. Since the heart works continuously, it cannot tolerate even brief blockages. If an artery is blocked for 10 or 15 minutes, there is usually evidence of a progressing heart attack. If the blockage is not relieved within about 35 or 40 minutes, permanent damage—called a myocardial infarction—occurs. Also, when the blood supply to the heart is blocked, the heart often beats abnormally, causing sudden death.

Thus, it can be seen that cocaine can produce a spectrum of responses, from undetected damage to the coronary arteries to heart attack with either survival or sudden death. There may also be other factors involved in sudden death with cocaine use, including abnormal levels of adrenalin. The combination of high levels of adrenalin plus artery blockage can produce serious heart arrhythmias and sudden death.



Diving and cocaine don't mix. Cocaine use can cause chronic heart damage and sudden death.

Clearly, diving and cocaine are not compatible. Individuals who dive while there is still a significant amount of this drug in the bloodstream are likely to have cardiac problems and might be prone to sudden death. Aside from this risk, there is also the long term, chronic damage to coronary arteries. To date we have not found evidence to indicate that once damaged, blood vessels to the heart can be restored to their normal state. So the chronic cocaine user, who may not develop serious cardiac problems initially, may be prone to early atherosclerotic injury. This type of disability limits all physical activity—including diving—and can only be repaired by bypass surgery or balloon dilatation of the artery.

In previous articles I mentioned cigarette smoking and alcohol as two other agents that can cause constriction or spasm of coronary blood vessels. Clearly, the combination of alcohol and cocaine, cigarette smoking and alcohol, or all three would be likely to cause spasm or injury to heart blood vessels. The modern social event, which includes alcohol and cocaine, might be the worst of all in terms of producing the highest risk for injury to the heart or sudden death.

We seem to be more and more likely to develop pleasures in life that have serious negative health effects. The changes in mental state from alcohol and cocaine and even cigarette smoking may make their use attractive. However, what we suffer in terms of shortened life expectancy and chronic illness, as well as the inability to participate in sports and exercise, is not worth the transient thrill from any of them.

Diving requires the best of your mental and physical abilities. Compromising your health with the use of drugs, excess alcohol or cigarettes makes diving unsafe for not only you but your partners. The risks are high and the pleasures are short: If you want to be a safe diver and enjoy the sport for many years, avoid alcohol and cocaine. If you smoke, stop, and if you don't, don't start.

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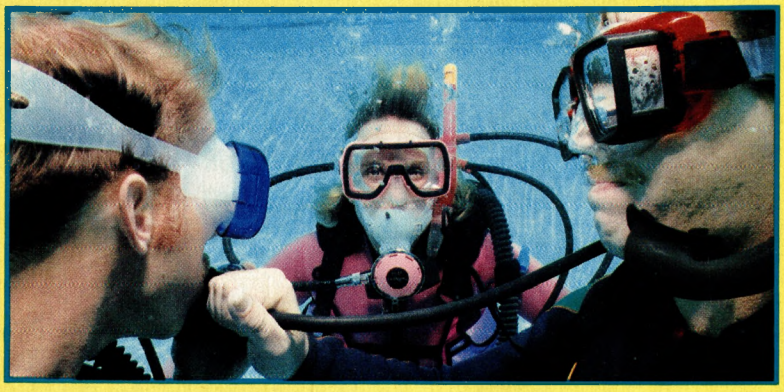
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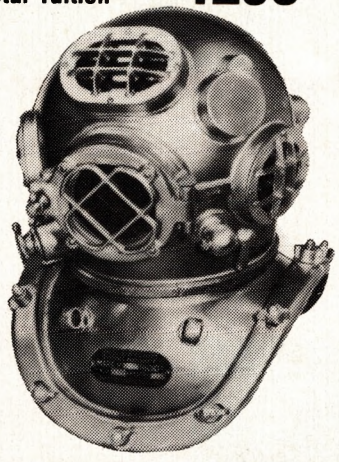
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SQUIRRELFISH

(Continued from Page 27)

by the voracious appetite of this little fish.

I can recall one particular squirrelfish—at San Salvador Island in the Bahamas—named Crazy Mary by the divemasters. This lovely creature became extremely tame after repeated feeding sessions. It would recognize the arrival of friendly divers and begin to swim in fast, tight circles, as though doing a celebration dance. Sometimes it would swallow a tidbit of food, spit it out and then swallow it again. Eventually, this delightful fish graciously posed for close-up photos and even macro portraits. And, despite the passage of time, winter storms and predators, Crazy Mary continued to live under the same coral head year after year.

Perhaps the oddest squirrelfish behavior I have ever observed occurs in the BVI. In all of the Caribbean, the wreck of the *Rhone* is the only place I know of where squirrelfish actually congregate in a large group for fish feeding sessions. Why an ordinarily solitary creature should suddenly become part of a pack of 20 or so fish is somewhat of a puzzle.

So, the next time you are visiting your favorite coral reef, take the time to observe the entertaining antics of the squirrelfish. Who knows, you may make a new friend.

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A week's dive vacation at Divi Tiara Beach on Cayman Brac awaits the grand prize winner in the 1988 Beneath-the-Sea underwater photo competition. The prize includes air fare from Miami or Atlanta, courtesy of Cayman Airways, and diving from a premier resort. The grand prize winner will also be honored with the Stan Waterman Award for excellence in underwater photography.

The contest is open to amateurs in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes areas. Many other prizes will be awarded, including items of equipment from major manufacturers. Slides may be entered in several categories, including ones of special interest to divers in northern fresh or saltwater. And, for the first time, there will be competition in video.

Winners of the contest will be honored at the Saturday evening film festival of the 12th annual Greater New York Underwater Exposition, held March 26.

The entry deadline is January 29. For a copy of the rules and an entry blank, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: R.A. Jacobson, 305 E. 86th St. (2T), New York, NY 10028.



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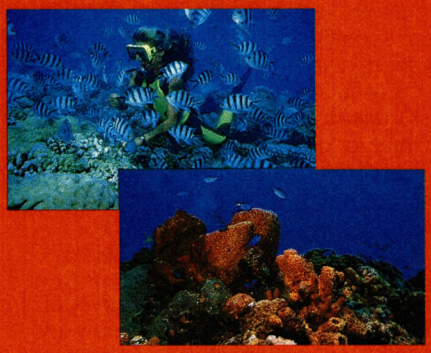
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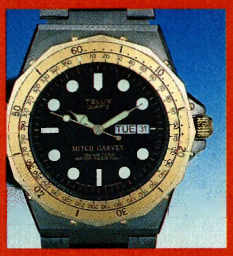


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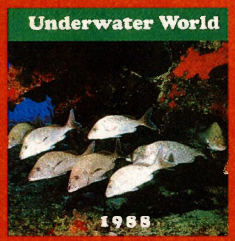
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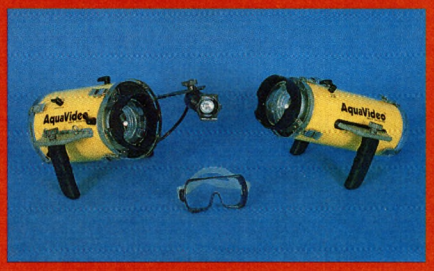


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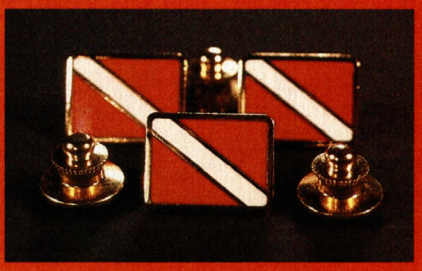
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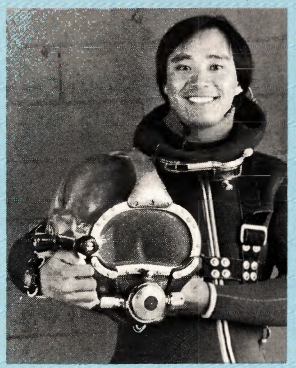
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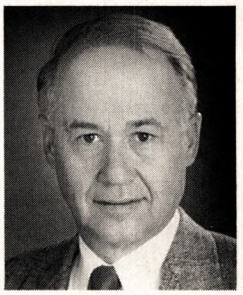
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SHEARER/DACOR

Dacor Corporation has appointed Gordon T. Shearer president. Shearer joined the company in 1961 as business manager and was sales manager until 1984 when he was appointed vice president. In 1985 he became vice president and general manager.

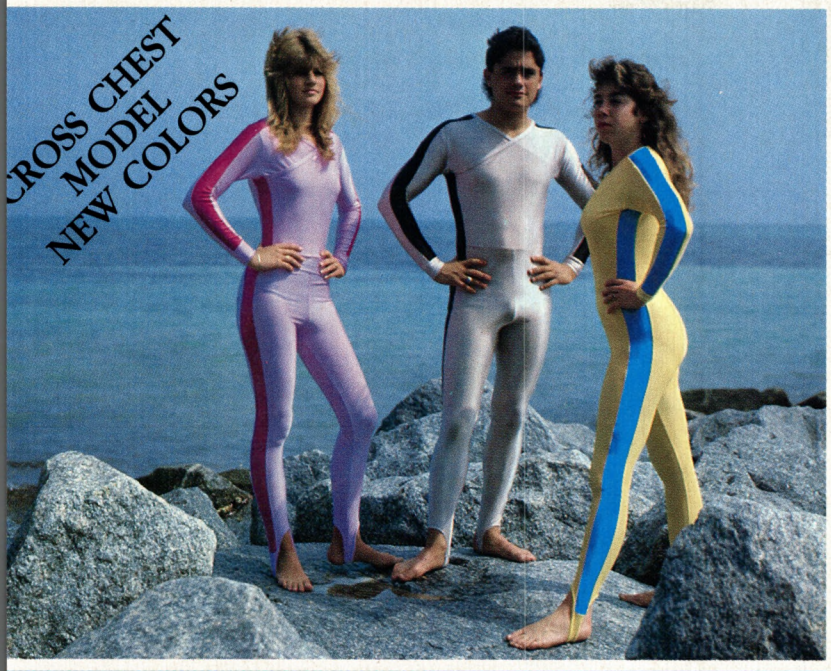


Long active in the industry, he has served on the Board of Directors of DEMA since its inception and was DEMA president in 1985 and 1986. When interviewed about his new position, Shearer indicated his expectations for the future as follows: "We see a strong worldwide growth in diving as our sport becomes attractive to many more people. Today, the whole world has become our market and Dacor intends to maintain its position of leadership and to grow further through the implementation of a strong program of innovative product introductions and the initiation of new computer assisted, fast-service plans and other support programs for dealers. Helping to establish effective working relationships within our industry among manufacturers, instructors and retailers is of paramount importance in achieving our goals. As a result, the diver benefits through the development of better equipment, more effective instruction and more professional servicing retailers."

CALIFORNIA PHOTO COMPETITION

The Channel Islands Underwater Photographic Society is sponsoring its second annual California Underwater Photographic Competition. Photographers from around the world are invited to enter prints and slides exposed in California waters. There will be both open and novice divisions. This year's competition will also feature a video category.

The entry deadline is February 5. Winning entries will be exhibited at the Channel Islands Underwater Photographic Society's fourth annual film show, to be held at the Port Hueneme Cultural Center on February 27. Further details and competition rules can be obtained from the competition chairman, Jim Perry, Channel Islands U/W Photographic Society, P.O. Box 6901, Oxnard, CA 93031.







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Savory SEA Scallops



The sea scallop is found from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Cape Hatteras. Top: A sea scallop dinner on the beach near Barnegat Light, New Jersey. Above: Fresh sea scallops.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY HERB SEGARS

Movement in the sea is accomplished in many strange and fascinating ways. It can be lightning fast, as with the speed of the dolphin, or excruciatingly slow, as in the case of the blue mussel, which moves only fractions of an inch over many hours. This movement may propel its user in many different directions; sideways for the crab, forward for the majority of fishes and backward for the lobster. Marine inhabitants use fins, claws, legs and tails to move themselves about during their daily excursions. One of the more interesting characters encountered in the ocean is the sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*). Lacking the appendages of the majority of subsea dwellers, the scallop has been bestowed with the ability to fly through the water using jet propulsion. It utilizes a few of its anatomical resources to activate this propulsion process. It opens its shell halves (also called valves) wide, seals their edges with a membrane curtain called a velum, leaving a small port open on each side of the valve near the rear hinge. The scallop then swiftly contracts its adductor muscle, closing the shell halves and forcing a jet of water out through the ports. The bivalve is then propelled backward through the water for distances up to 12 feet at a time. Juvenile scallops use this means of travel to escape predators such as starfish. As the bivalve matures, becoming larger and less vulnerable, it loses this mobility.

The sea scallop is found from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Canada to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, with the largest concentrations occurring off Newfoundland on Georges Bank and on the Middle Atlantic Shelf. North of Cape Cod, the scallop ranges inshore to just below the low tide mark and in a few small sites in Maine, it occurs intertidally. Elsewhere, it is found in deeper water. The demand for scallops has spawned many commercial fisheries from Port au Port, Newfoundland south to the Virginia Capes.

Currently, all the northeastern Atlantic states regulate the minimum size of sea scallops that may be harvested. The shell must be higher than three and one-half inches when measured from the flat hinged edge to the farthest point of the semi-oval portion. If the meat has been removed from the shell, no more than 30 pieces may constitute a pound. There are no restrictions as to the quantity of scallops that may be taken as long as the aforementioned requirements are met. The only supplementary regulations occur in the territorial waters of the State of Maine, which has a sea scallop season beginning November 1 and ending April 14. This season applies to everyone gathering sea scallops in the state. Scuba divers, when taking scallops for noncommercial consumption, do not need a license but are restricted to two bushels in the shell or four quarts of shucked adductor muscles (scallop meat) a day. This information applies to sea scallops only and there may be other restrictions that pertain to the smaller bay scallops.

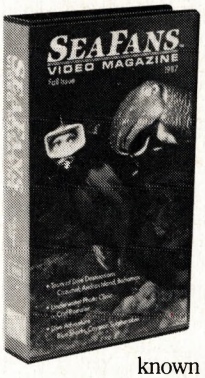
The life cycle of the scallop begins with the mature female casting millions of eggs into the water column each year. These become free-swimming embryos within 30 to 40 hours. After a month, the larvae attach themselves to different substrates, utilizing a mooring system much the same as that of mussels to anchor themselves to their new homes. During their early growth period they are preyed upon by codfish, wolffish and starfish. Their fragile shells and small size make them easy meals. As their shells harden and become larger, their casualty rate decreases.

Many factors influence the growth of the sea scallop, including the availability of food, water temperature and oxygen levels. Extremely low temperatures inhibit growth while high temperatures and/or low oxygen levels can cause death. With adequate food and suitable water temperatures, the one year old sea scallop reaches a length of just more than an

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SEA SCALLOPS

(Continued from Page 38)

inch and becomes a part of the spawning process that continues throughout its lifespan, which may last 15 years. During that time, the scallop can reach a length of more than eight inches. One of the largest recorded scallops was almost nine inches long.

There is an interesting symbiotic relationship that occurs between the sea scallop and the juvenile red hake (ling). Small hake live inside the mantles of the sea scallop. Larger red hake have been observed living outside scallops but touching their shells, perhaps in some display of a need for security.

Off the coast of New Jersey, sea scallops are found in waters ranging from 90-120 feet. They are also found in deeper water not accessible to sport divers. These deep dives provide limited bottom time and hunters try to acquire advance knowledge as to the location of scallop beds prior to their dive. At the bottom the greatest difficulty in collecting scallops is finding them. Having accomplished this task, the scallops are put into mesh bags and brought to the surface. Care should be taken not to attach the bag to the diver. These savory delights are heavy and the bag should be easily disposable in an emergency situation. If it is too heavy, it should be sent to the surface with a lift bag and retrieved at your leisure.

On the surface, the scallops should be opened with a sharp knife and the white meat trimmed away from the shell. At first this will take a little practice, but patience is the key. The arduous task of removing the meat from the shell will cause you to consider the merits of taking large scallops. The meat should be kept cold as a hot summer sun can spoil your rewards very quickly. In the comfort of your home, wash the scallop meat and enjoy the best part of the harvest, the succulent delight of scallops fresh from the sea.

SEA SCALLOPS NEWBERG

1 lb. sea scallops
2 tsp. sherry flavoring
¼ C butter, melted
1 tsp. flour
1¼ C thin cream
¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. lemon juice
2 egg yolks, beaten
Paprika

Heat the scallops thoroughly with the sherry and three tablespoons of butter, taking care not to brown the butter. In another saucepan, combine the remaining butter with flour and then add the cream. Place the sauce over direct heat and stir constantly until it boils. Remove from heat and stir into the beaten egg yolks, then return the mixture to the saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, for about two minutes or until thick. Add the heated scallops and seasonings and mix well. Serve immediately with crisp toast and French fries. This recipe may also be served over a bed of linguini. Makes 5 servings.

FRIED SCALLOPS

1 quart scallops
2 eggs, beaten
Fine dry bread crumbs

Roll the scallops in dry bread crumbs, dip them into the beaten egg and then roll again in bread crumbs. (They can also be fried with no coating at all.) Heat one-eighth inch of butter or other fat in a saucepan. Cook the scallops for about four minutes over low heat, turning when half done. Serve piping hot.

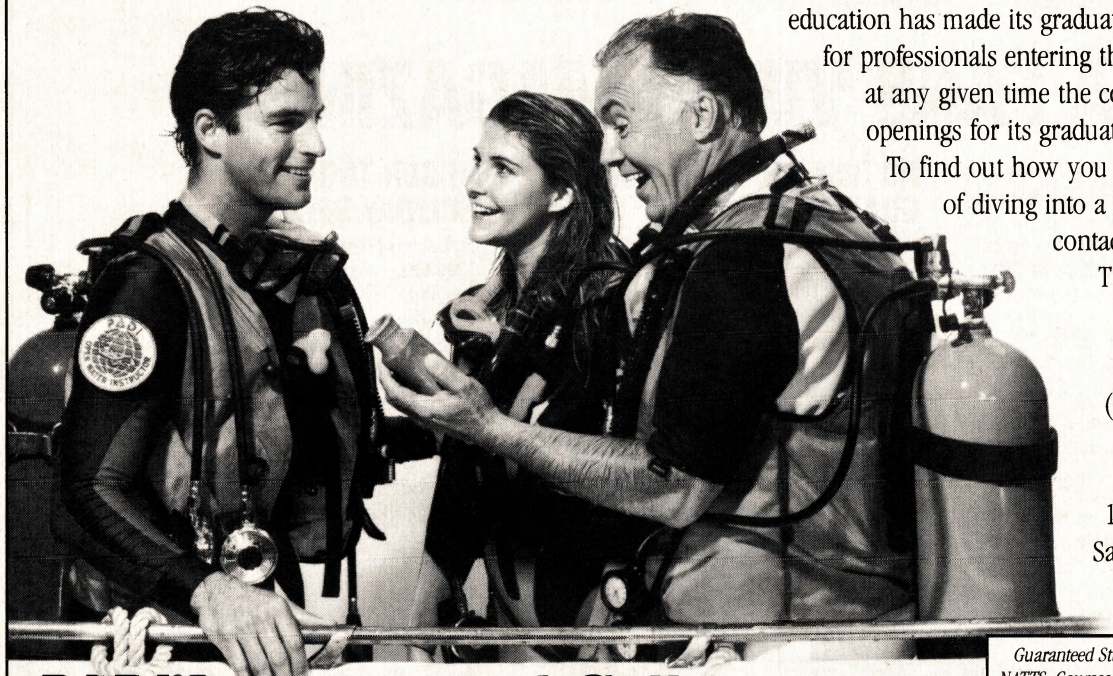
SEA SCALLOPS MARINARA

½ stick of butter
2 C ricotta cheese
1 lb. sea scallops
1 lb. box, medium pasta shells, cooked
4 C marinara sauce
½ lb. provolone, grated

Cut scallops in half and sauté in butter. Mix all the ingredients—except the provolone—in a baking dish. Top with cheese. Bake at 300°F for 45 minutes to an hour. Makes 6 to 8 servings. To enhance this recipe, add one pound medium shrimp, boiled and peeled.

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SDM'S

U/W Video Course

SHOOTING YOUR DIVE VACATION

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH







Your video must have a beginning, middle and end. Don't begin with divers underwater (top). Rather, a beginning might be: Introduce the resort with its sign; show divers boarding the boat; show divers gearing up.

You've just returned from a fantastic dive resort and are about to show your U/W video to your friends. You press the play button on the VCR and wham: A big grouper fills the screen! You no sooner begin describing the grouper's antics than the questions begin: Where was this place? How big was the boat? Was the divemaster cute? You try to keep the discussion centered on your underwater scenes, and even back the tape up a couple of times to repeat your favorites, but the unrelated questions continue.

Why was your video a flop? The answer is simple: You started your U/W scenes too abruptly. You didn't use the necessary build-up to arouse the viewer's interest. You skipped over the necessary introduction to the location, the dive scene and the dives. Your video movie had only a middle—it didn't have a beginning or an end.

THE LOCATION

If you don't have a character generator to create titles, begin with a CU of the sign naming the resort and a few scenic shots of it. Don't shoot these establishing shots when you first step out of the taxi; take time to rest and look for the best lighting and camera angles.

If the resort has a thatch-covered bar, shoot a few scenes of your group enjoying a cool drink or having lunch. Don't start taping too fast. Camera-shy people make poor subjects, so wait until they become accustomed to the camera. One method, if you have editing capability, is to ignore the tripod-mounted camera for a while, then casually turn the camera on and walk away from it. You can edit out what you need later.

THE DIVE SCENE

Use a LS to show the dive center and then use MS and CU shots to highlight interesting details and introduce the dive personnel with a few head-and-shoulder shots. If the dive boat is moored nearby, you might be able to include it in the first LS of the dive center. If not, use another LS to introduce the boat and then move or zoom in to show the name of the boat.

Now that the dive operation has been introduced, concentrate on your group's diving activities. A LS of the group boarding the boat followed by MS and CU shots of divers setting up their gear and checking their camera settings prepares your viewer for the U/W scenes that will









The dive sequence might begin with an underwater shot of a diver breaking the surface. It could continue with fish feeding. The end of the dive could be indicated by an underwater shot of divers at the boarding ladder. The closing scene could be a topside shot of your diver at the swimstep.

follow. Keep these scenes short—just set the scene for the viewer.

DOCUMENTING THE DIVES

Your goal is to have a story line or at least to maintain some continuity between scenes. This can be difficult if your dive buddies haven't been diving for several months and are new to this dive location. Thus, if you are editing in camera, we suggest that you don't try to shoot the first dive. Let your subjects get their buoyancy and balance under control. Relaxed subjects are easier to shoot.

Shoot divers entering the water. Use an overlap showing a diver stepping into the water, followed by an upward shot of the diver breaking through the surface. However, it isn't always practical for the diver to get out of the water and step in again. Shoot the first diver who steps in, enter the water yourself and then shoot the next diver who steps into the water. For an easier overlap, shoot your buddy stepping in. Then, shut the camera off, get in the water yourself and shoot your buddy from behind as he heads down the anchorline. Another variation, which works best in clear water, is to swim down to the anchor and shoot the divers breaking through the surface above and swimming down the anchorline.

Your U/W action sequences will depend on how cooperative your subjects are and what underwater features are present. If your subjects are too interested in their dive to pose for you, try to get ahead of the group and shoot them as they swim toward you. If you follow the group or stay with it, all you'll shoot will be tanks, rumps and fins. Save the "diver swimming away" shot for the LS that signals the end of the dive.

A shot of the divers at the ten foot safety stop, followed by a shot of a diver going up the ladder, provides a definite ending and transition to the topside shots that will follow. If possible, try to get a topside shot of a diver coming up the ladder. Even if most of your U/W scenes were random, your beginning and ending shots will create an illusion of continuity.

When you move to another dive site, and especially if you dive with different people, of if your subjects change wetsuits, use some topside shots as a transition from one dive to another. The topside shots also break up the video: Too many underwater scenes, end to end, can be boring and abrupt changes in subjects can be confusing. Shoot a couple shots at lunch and get a couple more shots of the divemaster.

WRAP IT UP

Your video movie needs an ending to resolve the story for the viewer. Regardless of how good your U/W scenes are, an abrupt ending leaves the viewer unsettled or confused. Your ending could be a simple shot of someone standing by the resort sign waving goodbye or the group entering a taxi for the drive to the airport. Your goal is to "wrap it up" for your viewer.

GLOSSARY

Character Generator: A video accessory for adding letters (titles) to your video pictures.

Continuity: Showing scenes and sequences in a logical order.

Cut-Away Shot: A brief CU or MS that cuts away from the main action to a related subject or a separate action happening at the same time. For example, if a MS shows a diver looking at a fish, you could use a brief CU cut-away of just the diver's face. A cut-away subject should be established as part of the main action, directly or indirectly, before the cut-away is made.

Cut-In Shot: A brief close-up that cuts into the main action. For example, if a MS shows a diver reading a depth gauge, a brief cut-in CU can show the diver's view of the gauge.

CU: A close-up shot that pinpoints the main action. LS and MS shots usually lead to the CU.

Establishing Shot: A shot, usually a LS, that introduces the viewer to a scene or action.

LS: A long shot, usually wide-angle, showing the overall view of the scene. These are usually used to establish scenes and resolve sequences.

MS: A medium shot providing the transition between the long shot that established the scene and the close up that pinpoints the action.

Overlap: To reshoot the same action (but from a different camera angle) that occurred at the end of the previous shot.

Resolving Shot: A shot, usually a LS, that shows or implies the end of an action or sequence of shots. This shot may also provide a transition from one scene to another.

Scene: The overall view of a subject or subjects.

Sequence: A series of related shots in a logical order. A video is made up of a series of related sequences.

Shot: The tape exposed between the time you turn the camera on until you turn it off.

Shoot: The act of taking a shot (verb); a shooting session when several shots are made (noun).

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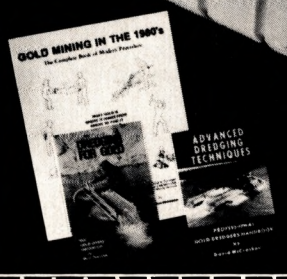
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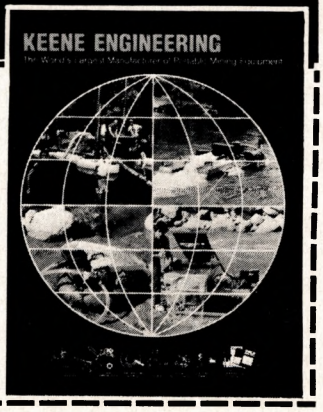


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AVALON U/W CLEAN-UP

The 1988 Avalon Underwater Clean-up will be held January 16, 1988. It has become a tradition on Catalina Island, California. Divers gather to search for and recover garbage and treasures, beer cans and souvenirs from the harbor bottom. The clean-up, under the supervision of the Avalon Harbor Department, is a cooperative effort of the businesses involved in Catalina Underwater Adventures.

The clean-up dives will be made from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, January 16. Avalon Harbor, Lover's Cove and Casino Point are targeted for the sweep. Divers may register and receive instructions and guidelines throughout the day with divemasters at the dive sites. Garbage is to be turned in and divers should check back into the same location at least by 3:00 pm. The city will gather the garbage (and provide garbage bags) to weigh in and take to the dump. Any interesting, unusual, particularly ugly or beautiful, large or small, old or new, cute or worthless item should be brought to the attention of the divemaster and will make the registrant eligible for prizes.

The awards ceremony will be held at the Avalon Casino Ballroom. A dinner-dance will be held in celebration of garbage (and diving). Reservations are recommended and advance sales of tickets for the dinner, dance, awards ceremony, garbage prizes, door prizes and a free air fill are $20. Nondiving spouses and friends are welcome to attend. Tickets sold on the day of the event will be $25.

To register or for more information or assistance with hotel reservations call Bud or Nanci Davis at Blue Dolphin House (213) 510-1811 or make your check or money order payable to Blue Dolphin/U/W Cleanup and mail to P.O. Box 2605, Avalon, California 90704.

NAUI PROMOTIONS

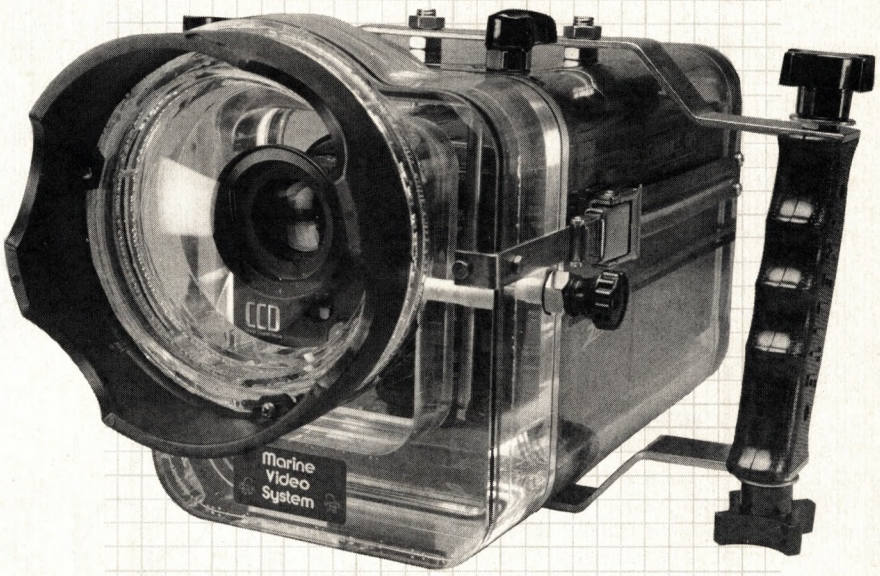
Marcia Wieland has been promoted to director of financial services for NAUI. The new title reflects her position on the Headquarters Executive Committee, comprised of herself, executive director Sam Jackson and director of education Dennis Graver.

Wieland joined NAUI four years ago as assistant to the executive director. She rapidly assumed additional responsibilities, guiding the organization through a difficult growth period. As controller, Marcia was intimately involved in designing a completely new computerized financial support system.

Additionally, NAUI has appointed Henry Veix and Dan Orr as managers of the North Atlantic and Mid America Branches, respectively. Veix replaces Paul Heinmiller and Orr takes over for Bob Sheridan.

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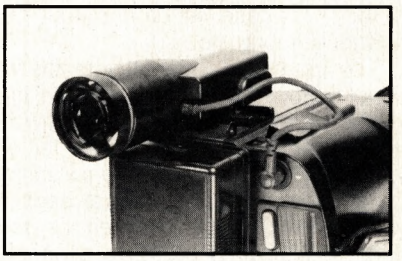
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SIGMA CONSOLE

SHERWOOD'S MULTI-FUNCTION DIVING INSTRUMENT

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

If you happen to be shopping for a new dive console that will deliver years of faithful service and highly accurate information, we invite you to examine Sherwood's Sigma. Here is a tough little instrument that will endure the roughest conditions and yet deliver the information you need to conduct a safe dive.

While the Sigma may appear to be just another analog dive console, its interior craftsmanship distinguishes this instrument as a high quality package. Hidden beneath a somewhat ordinary exterior is a magical blend of rare materials, unique design and superb quality control.

Here is the real story of the Sigma—the information you won't find printed in the product catalogue.

HOSE

The Sigma console is equipped with what appears to be a standard 34 inch long high pressure hose. Yet the length is probably the only ordinary aspect of this component. It is actually a special Goodyear hose constructed of a double braid Kevlar. While the standard for high pressure hoses is a burst pressure of 16,000 psi, the Sigma hose is rated for a burst pressure of 20,000 psi—25 percent stronger than industry standards. The hose is rated for a maximum working pressure of 4,000 psi, with plenty of safety margin in reserve. There is a good chance this hose will outlast its owner!

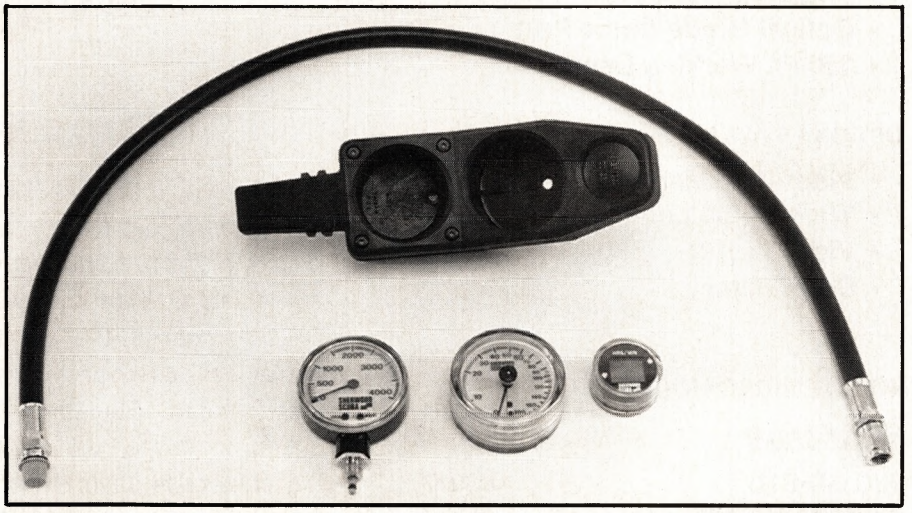
PRESSURE GAUGE

The Sigma pressure gauge is contained in a very tough molded case made of Lexan 141. The front cover is hermetically sealed with ultrasonic welding and there is a backup O-ring seal virtually guaranteeing watertight integrity. The interior of the case will be dry at all times, ensuring a long life.

The gauge is connected to the high pressure hose by means of a quadruple O-ring swivel connector. This allows the console to swivel on the hose for easy reading and adjustment. The swivel stem is equipped with an O-ring at each end and actually "floats" between the gauge and the high pressure hose connection. It is larger than most and designed to withstand a great deal of wear and tear.

The gauge mechanism is a spiral wound bourdon tube made of beryllium copper. This is the heart of the gauge and the key to its consistent accuracy. The actual manufacturing process is a trade secret closely guarded by the bourdon tube maker.

The gauge dial face is also a trade secret. It is a special space age material containing a highly radiant glow pigment combined with S.A.N.D. It is this mixture that produces the luminescent glow and allows the diver to utilize this gauge night or day.



The Sigma has a submersible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive timer and special hose.

The dial face is calibrated from 0 to 4,000 psi in 500 psi color coded segments. The range from 0 to 500 psi is broken down into 100 psi segments for more accurate readings at low pressures.

DEPTH GAUGE

The Sigma depth gauge boasts an equally rugged construction. The case is a clear polycarbonate material, with a bottom cap threaded and fitted with an O-ring seal.

Inside the case is a highly accurate dry diaphragm gauge mechanism. Water enters four holes in the bottom of the gauge and exerts pressure against a two inch diameter flexible diaphragm of rubber.

The flexing diaphragm, in turn, activates a metal plate of the same diameter. This plate is the key to the extreme accu-

racy of the gauge. It is constructed of a special blue tempered clock-spring steel with very close tolerances for flatness and thickness. While the rubber diaphragm will flex, the metal plate moves up and down very precisely.

The metal diaphragm plate engages a finely crafted rack and pinion movement constructed of brass and stainless steel arms. A stainless steel adjustment screw on the side of the case allows factory fine tuning of the zero adjustment. This special screw eliminates the need for a peg stop on the dial face.

The dial face itself is of the same high glow material as the pressure gauge. The face is calibrated for a 0 to 200 foot diving range, with the greatest amount of needle travel in the 0 to 30 foot range. This unique design allows for highly accurate depth readings during decompression safety stops at the 10, 20 and 30 foot levels.

DIVE TIMER

The dive timer is the third instrument that completes the Sigma console trio. This is a totally automatic electronic instrument operated by a CMOS microprocessor. It is pressure activated, switching on at seven feet and switching off at five.

The dive timer provides three basic functions. It will count the bottom time in minutes and hours up to a maximum of nine hours. It will count surface time in hours and minutes up to a maximum of 11 hours, 59 minutes. It will count the number of dives up to nine.

The instrument is powered by two silver-oxide batteries that can provide 6,000 hours of service. This is because the unique CMOS processor draws very low power.

Large LCD numerals on a highly reflective silver screen make this dive timer very easy to read.

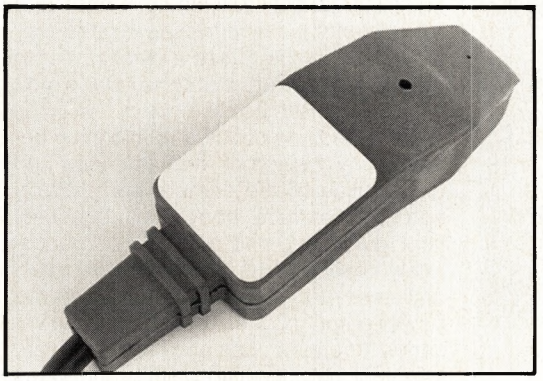
CONSOLE BOOT

The three different Sigma instrument modules are contained in a rugged console boot constructed of molded natural rubber. It helps to protect the instruments from hard knocks and bumps, as well as coral scratches and hangups. The console is available in five different color boots: black, blue, yellow, pink and lavender. (Red will replace lavender in 1988.) The backside of the boot features a small underwater slate for jotting down notes or messages for your dive buddy.

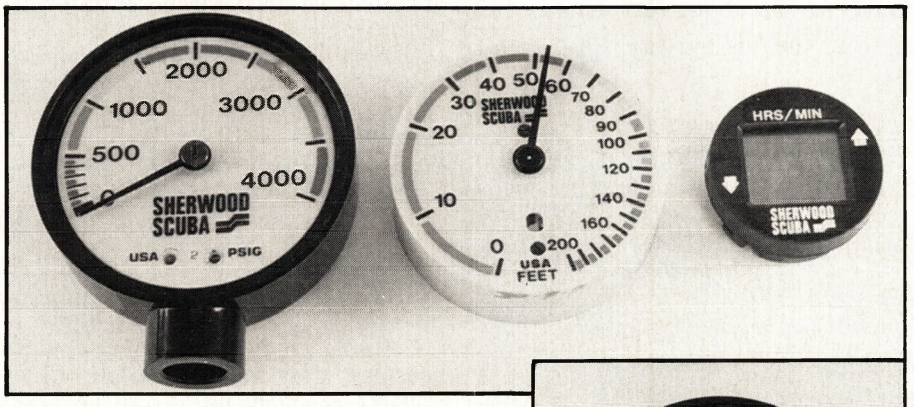
CONCLUSION

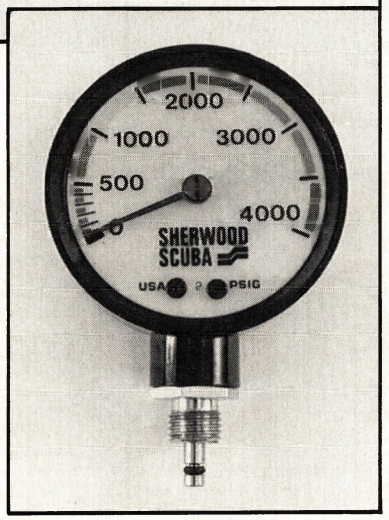
Our open water testing of the Sigma console proved a delight. All three instruments performed with consistent accuracy and there were no leaks. A diver could hardly ask for more than that. The Sigma console retails for $229.95. Additional options include an U/W compass that slips over the high pressure hose and onto the neck of the boot. It costs $44.95.

For more information about the Sigma console, see your local Sherwood dive store dealer or contact Sherwood Scuba, 120 Church Street, Lockport, NY 14094.

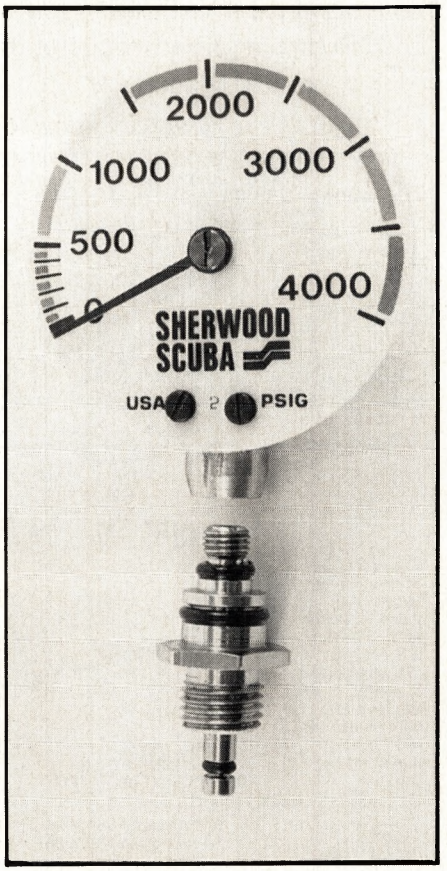


Left: The console has a small slate on the back for jotting down notes or messages underwater. The rubber console boot protects the instruments and is available in black, blue, yellow, pink or lavender. Below right: The submersible pressure gauge is joined to the high pressure hose by a unique quadruple O-ring swivel connector.





Right: The submersible pressure gauge face is calibrated from 0 to 4,000 psi in 500 psi color coded segments. The range from 0 to 500 psi is broken down in 100 psi segments for more accurate readings at low pressures. Above: The Sigma's instruments feature high quality craftsmanship. The submersible pressure gauge has a molded case of tough Lexan 141 and the front cover is ultrasonically welded to prevent leaks. The gauge features a spiral wound bourdon tube mechanism for precision. The depth gauge has an equally rugged polycarbonate case and a diaphragm/rack and pinion movement for accuracy. The dive timer has a digital LCD display and will count the number of dives made each day (up to nine).



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NIKONOS COURSE

(Continued from Page 16)

film frame or 36 flashes per roll.

Recycle Time: Recycle time is a very important consideration in macro photography because repeated shots of the same creature require rapid firing. If you intend to shoot three pictures of a shrimp dancing across a coral head you will have to shoot fast.

We have included a chart that lists the performance data for each of the manual flash models.

MANUAL EXPOSURE MACRO

Correct manual exposure for macro is achieved by carefully measuring the actual distance between the flash head and the center of the wire framer. A good way to achieve this is to use a plastic ruler to measure the true distance. Once you have measured the distance a few times you will begin to notice a relationship between the position of the flash head and the position of the camera body. Pretty soon the camera body itself becomes your measuring rod and you can accurately "eyeball" the distances. The exact distances are largely dependent on the power output of your flash. Output power varies among strobes and may even vary in output between two units of the same model. It may take some experimentation to figure the exact distances for your particular strobe and film combination.

The following is a suggested distance guide for mini strobes commonly used in macro photography:

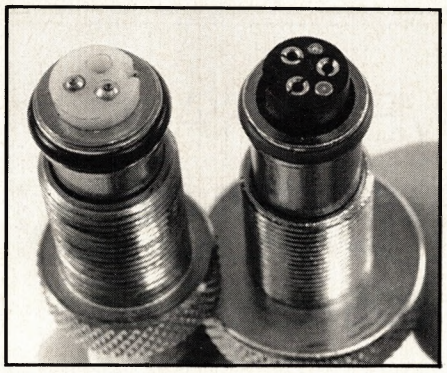
1:3—10 inches
1:2— 7 inches
1:1— 4 inches
2:1— 2 inches

The distance guide is based on averages and, therefore, requires further adjustment depending on the output of your specific flash. If your entire roll of pictures is underexposed (too dark), move the strobe in another inch or two. If the pictures are overexposed (too light) pull your strobe back.

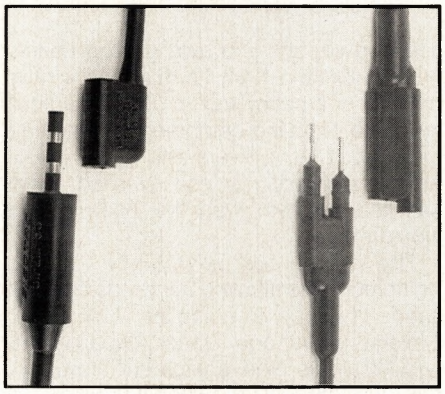
Adjustment must be made to compensate for subject reflectivity. If the subject is white or is on a sand background, you must pull your strobe back an inch or two. If the subject is black, dark brown or green you will have to bring your flash closer by an inch or so.

BRACKETING BY FLASH DISTANCE

The best way to ensure correct exposure is to "bracket" your exposures. This is done by shooting the same subject three times, at three different flash dis-



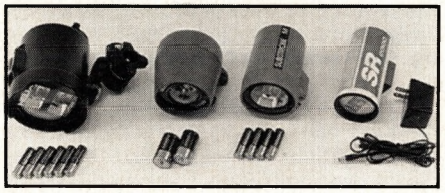
TTL strobes require a five pin Nikonos connector while non-TTL manual strobes use a less expensive three pin connector.



The simplified three pin wiring of the non-TTL strobe permits using special quick-disconnect underwater connectors such as the EO (Electro-Oceanic) and Nelson.



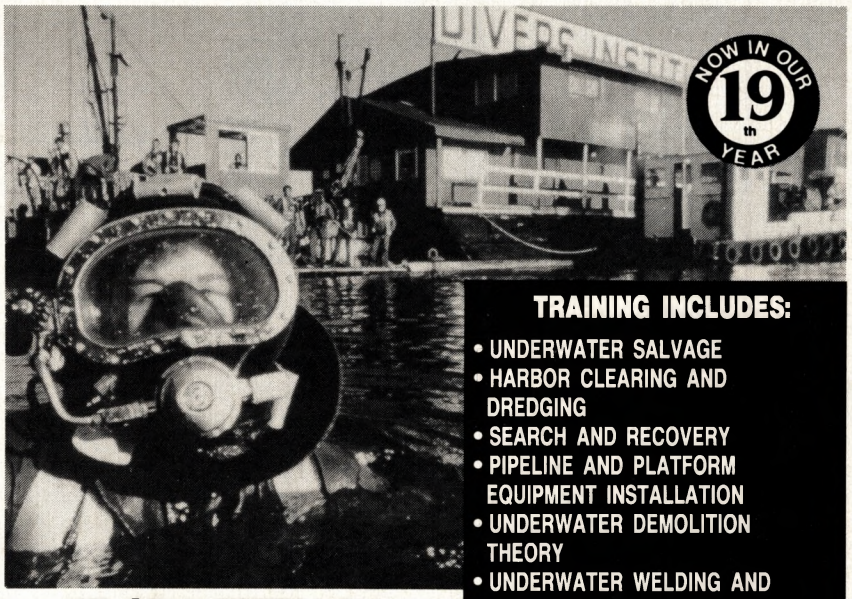
The size of the flash head is one of the basic criteria in the selection of a mini strobe, but the size factor should be considered along with performance criteria.



The power source is an important consideration—various strobe models are powered by different size and number of batteries. One strobe is even rechargeable.

tances. For example, a 1:2 Christmas tree shot might be taken at flash distances of 9, 7 and 5 inches. One of the three pictures should be close to a perfect exposure.

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IN MEMORIAM
SAM DAVISON
1925-1987

BY BILL GLEASON

Just after World War II, on the remote island of Guam, a young marine began a dream. A group of friends were playing with a new novelty item, an underwater mask. The young marine, whose name was Sam Davison, soon got a chance to try it. What he saw that day beneath the sea profoundly changed his life, and he began to dream about how he could share that marvelous experience with others.

The dream smoldered for a few years when the marine returned to the Midwest, but soon Sam Davison began tinkering with the primitive dive equipment available in the early '50s. It took him two years, but he finally produced the R-2, a two hose regulator. Since Sam thought it was the best regulator ever made, he decided to start a company to manufacture and sell it. Borrowing the first two letters of his last name and the first three of corporation, he created Dacor in 1954.

As with any company, the early days were not a tale of instant success. There was usually just "one guy in front selling the stuff and one guy in back making it," Davison used to say. On some days, both of those guys were Sam. His competition had names such as Seamless, Nemrod and Voit; they were considered giants in their day. Sam's plan was not to topple the giants overnight. He figured, from the beginning, that if his company was dedicated to making the best diving equipment available, he'd win in the end.

The early '60s saw Dacor growing: Sam's persistence was beginning to pay off. Key people joined the company and Sam considered all the employees family. Many of the early employees, from top management to line manufacturing positions, are still with Dacor today. "Family" meant walking the company floor, finding out what was happening with each employee and soliciting new ideas about production, shipping, sales and the like. The fact that some of the early employees only spoke Spanish bothered Sam. He couldn't communicate with them. With typical Davison persistence, he learned to speak Spanish so that all his employees could bring him their ideas and problems and share the day-to-day events that make life so interesting.

By the mid '70s, Dacor was one of the leading manufacturers of diving equipment in the U.S. and the dream was moving full speed ahead. Yet, while Dacor was becoming a household name in diving, just about nobody knew who Sam Davison was. In 34 years, he never signed a catalogue, nor would he allow promotional use of his name. He was one of the great pioneers of diving, but you'd have to call him the quiet pioneer; the one who let his products and his company do the talking.

While Davison shunned the public spotlight, he was always outgoing and highly visible at Dacor. The door was always open to employees and friends and, if you had a new idea about a product, well, you might end up spending the night. Although he was an accomplished pilot (airplanes, gliders and seaplanes), licensed captain and avid photographer, nothing excited Sam as much as a new product or a better way to build a particular piece of diving equipment. All his key employees were divers and they all tested the products. Unless everbody was satisfied an item was the best, Dacor wouldn't sell it.

The dream just won't quit. Dacor equipment has allowed hundreds of thousands of people to enjoy the U/W world. Several years ago Dacor became the largest single dive equipment manufacturer in the world. The dream that started in Guam with a young marine has passed the test of time and, in the past 30 years, divers have told Sam Davison his ideas and dreams were what they wanted.

Sam Davison died of cancer in August of this year. Those lucky enough to know him will miss his wit and loyal friendship. The quiet pioneer not only saw his dream come true, but founded a company that will continue the dream long after he is gone. To thousands of divers and potential divers, the quiet pioneer has left a dynamic legacy called Dacor; living proof that diving dreams do come true.





Above: One of Sam Davison's rules was that all key Dacor employees test dive the equipment they were producing. Left: Sam Davison at a quarry (circa 1956) developing and testing early Dacor regulators.

PADI INSTRUCTOR EXAMINERS

James Morgan and Gale Simmons are new additions to the PADI team, bringing with them extensive experience in diving and education. Both will be conducting PADI instructor examinations (IEs), two day programs in which instructor candidates are evaluated for certification as PADI open water instructors.

The former training manager for the Tustin, California City Parks and Recreation Swimming Program, James Morgan has a masters degree in education from the University of San Diego and has spent the last seven years in instructional assessment, development and teaching.

Gale Simmons has an extensive diving, medical and educational background. She has been a nurse for 14 years, the last five of which she has been a nurse educator, responsible for the development and execution of nursing education programs. Simmons received her masters degree in education from San Francisco State University.

SEAHORSES U/W PHOTO COMPETITION

The Ford Seahorses first annual Underwater Photo Competition will be held in conjunction with the 11th annual Great Lakes Shipwreck Film Festival in February. The entry deadline is December 31. There are five Great Lakes categories and two for saltwater.

For information contact Ray Berch (313) 697-9442.

WRECK VALLEY VIDEOS

Aqua Explorers, Inc. is offering a video series on shipwrecks in Long Island's Wreck Valley. Dan Berg—author of the book *Wreck Valley*, a record of shipwrecks off Long Island's south shore, and *Shore Diver*, a diver's guide to Long Island beach sites—and Captain Steve Bielenda of the research vessel *Wahoo*, are in the process of filming and editing videos on Long Island shipwrecks.

The first of the video series will document the USS *San Diego*, which sank July 19, 1918. The series is tailored to the interests of sport divers, fishermen and marine historians.

Other videos soon to be produced will include wrecks such as the luxury liner *Andrea Doria*, Cunard steamship *Oregon*, German submarine *U-853*, freighter *Iberia*, prohibition rumrunner *Lizzie D* and many more.

Send your name, address and telephone number to Aqua Explorers, Inc. You will be contacted by mail with price and time of release information. Contact Aqua Explorers, Inc., 22 Maiden Lane, Lynbrook, New York 11563.



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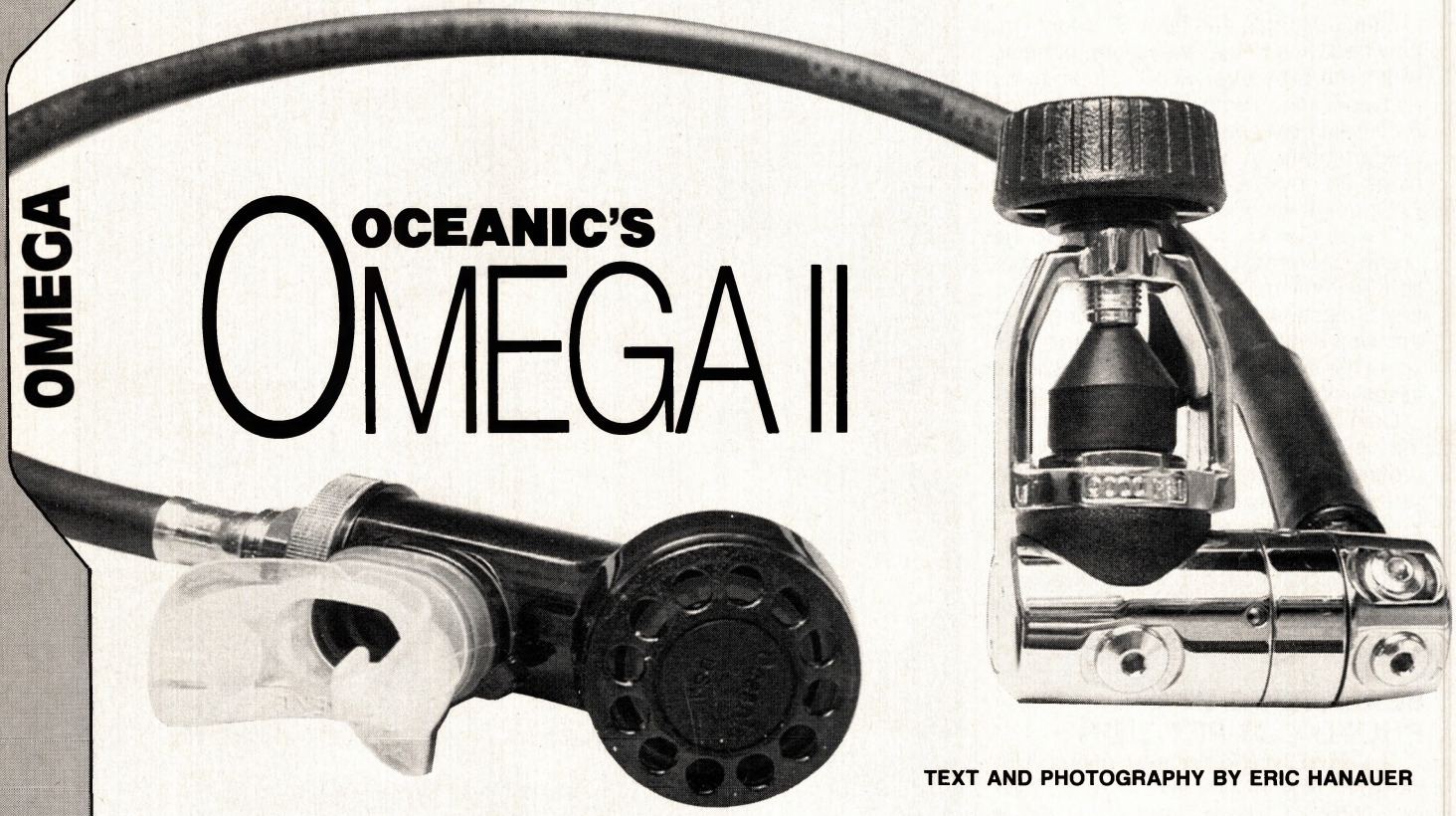


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OMEGA

OCEANIC'S OMEGA II



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC HANAUER

Since its introduction in 1983, Oceanic's innovative Omega regulator has gained a reputation as a high performer. During the past two years, evolutionary changes have been made, both cosmetically and functionally, to warrant a new designation: Omega II. Last year Oceanic introduced a Color Kit, allowing divers to match the color scheme of their equipment with a rainbow of new second stage housings. For 1987, the Omega's mechanics have been updated with a more compact first stage and improved exhalation characteristics in the second stage.

The new first stage is 15 percent smaller and also lighter than its predecessor. It still utilizes the popular balanced, flow-through piston design. But now the piston rides down inside the body instead of in the screw-on cap. This allows tighter control over production tolerances, making the Omega II more reliable and easier to produce and repair. In standard form, it offers four low pressure ports on an end swivel, along with two high pressure ports on the case.

An optional Maxflo kit is also available. This consists of two components: a different swivel cap with a fifth low pressure port coming out of its end and a wider diameter hose with a one-half inch fitting. (The other four low-pressure ports retain the normal three-eighths inch fitting.) This is designed for divers who plan on doing a lot of work at extreme depths. Placing the primary second stage hose on the end of the cap improves laminar flow by avoiding the turbulence that would occur by forcing air around a 90 degree bend. In addition, the wider diameter of the Maxflo hose improves flow to the second stage. This kit was formerly standard equipment, but the vast majority of divers don't need it. Fitting the hose on the end of the cap creates some awkwardness in first stage mounting and most people would be unable to detect any difference in breathing effort at sport diving depths. Therefore, Oceanic offers the Maxflo kit as a $69.95 option.

The new first stage also has environmental protection capability. If the owner normally dives in frigid or contaminated water, silicone grease can be injected into the regulator through four small ports. This isolates the mechanism from the environment.

The original Omega made lots of waves in the diving industry with its second stage, actuated by a downstream servo valve. This design used to be called a pilot valve. But, reliability problems plagued some of the early pilot valve regulators, lending a negative connotation to the term. Today, manufacturers prefer to call them servo-assist valves, and we will follow industry protocol in this article. The advantage of a servo-assisted second stage is that it allows easier breathing effort with fewer moving parts in a lighter, more compact housing.

All other regulators of this type made today are actuated by an upstream servo mechanism of the tilt valve design. To prevent hose blowout in the unlikely event of first stage overpressure, they are equipped with a relief valve, either in the first stage or in the hose fitting. Oceanic engineers avoided this unnecessary mechanical complication by providing a lever action, downstream servo valve. In case of first stage failure, the Omega's second stage would merely freeflow, still allowing the diver to breathe normally on ascent, as with any conventional downstream second stage.

The diver begins the normal breathing cycle by inhaling. That depresses the diaphragm and moves a small lever, unseating a rubber pad at its opposite end. Pressure inside the servo chamber drops, causing the main

valve disk to bulge outward, away from its seat. Air can then pass through the main valve and into the ports leading to the second stage. These ports are triangular in shape, so, as the main valve bends farther from continued demand, more of each opening is uncovered, supplying an increasing volume of air. The main valve is balanced. Under conditions of no demand it remains closed without spring pressure. The only spring in the second stage is a tiny one that keeps the servo valve closed. This is a major factor in the Omega II regulator's low breathing effort.

The diaphragm and exhaust valve are combined at the end of the second stage, directing bubbles along the diver's cheek and away from the eyes. For 1987, a new exhaust valve made from a vinyl rubber compound replaces the silicone valve on earlier models. This has more elasticity and wears better than the old valve. To further improve exhaust flow, the diameter of the second stage has been increased by one-eighth inch. Although this seems insignificant, the result is an improvement in ease of exhalation.

For fashion conscious divers, the second stage housing is offered in seven different colors: blue, orange, turquoise, lavender, pink, orange and black. The black one is Noryl plastic; the others are transparent Lexan. If you change the color of your wetsuit or buoyancy compensator and want your second stage to match, a new housing can be purchased for $44.95. This includes the diaphragm/exhaust assembly and mouthpiece.

Oceanic's new, patented orthodontic mouthpiece deserves some attention as well. Made from translucent white silicone, it is designed to accommodate a diver's normal overbite. To be used effectively, it should be mounted with the "Pat pend." mark at the top. If for some reason you prefer your regulator hose coming over the left instead of the right shoulder, the mouthpiece should be flipped as well. For buddy breathing, there is still no upside down to the second stage. Just turn it over as you offer it to your buddy. On an assisted ascent, the slight discomfort of an upside-down mouthpiece won't matter. The swivels on both the first and second stages are smooth and easy moving, allowing ease of handling in normal use as well as emergency situations.

OMEGA II

First stage:
- Type: Balanced, flow-through piston
- Working pressure: 4,500 psi (with DIN fitting)
 3,000 psi (with standard yoke)
- Material: Forged brass, triple chrome plated
 Virgin Teflon high pressure seat
 Stainless steel piston
- High pressure ports: Two, 7/16"
- Low pressure ports: Four, 3/8", on swivel
 (An additional port, 1/2", available with Maxflo kit)
- Weight: 2 lbs.
- Intermediate pressure: 140 psi
- Hose length: 27"

Second stage:
- Type: Balanced downstream servo-assisted
- Material: Noryl or Lexan case
 Silicone diaphragm and mouthpiece
 Vinyl rubber exhaust valve
- Weight: 6 ounces
- Special features: Maxflo kit & Color Kit available
- Price: $278

We tested the Omega II during two days of diving on the research vessel *Westwind*, off the coast of Laguna Beach, California. It turned out to be a dry, easy breather. Because of its tubular layout, the Omega was influenced less by position changes than a conventional, disc shaped second stage. Breathing effort remained the same, whether in the prone position, vertical or even upside down. Only when I turned toward the left did water leak in and breathing become difficult. That was because this position places the diaphragm higher than the center of the lungs, the same as being upside down with a conventional regulator.

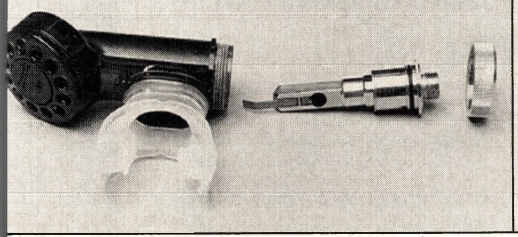
Even with my eyes closed, I could tell the Omega II was a servo-assisted regulator. A slight lag could be detected when I was slowly sipping air. After an initial restriction, the main valve kicked in. When breathing deeply during hard swimming, this "servo lag" was less noticeable as the Omega II supplied all the air needed. Easy breathing continued even at low tank pressures and at depth. The test model did not have the Maxflo kit, but I didn't feel it was needed.

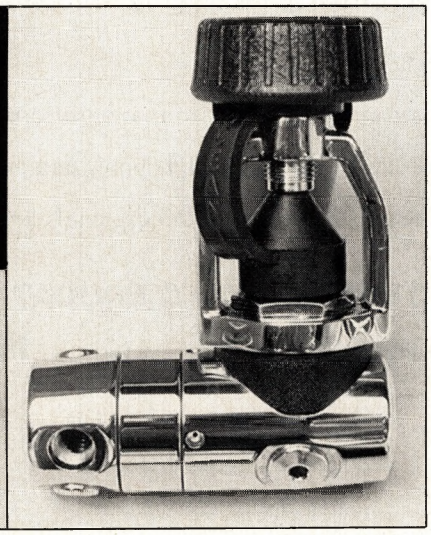
When dropped with the mouthpiece up or with the diaphragm down, the Omega II will freeflow. Turning the mouthpiece downward and letting it fill with water will stop the flow. But make sure it is completely full, otherwise the flow will begin again when the second stage drops to a vertical position in the water. In order to keep the second stage simple and compact, Oceanic engineers did not fit it with a desensitizing switch. It isn't necessary if the above procedure is followed.

Because of the sideward location of the exhaust valve (which is combined with the diaphragm), exhalation was remarkably easy; it almost seemed to be power assisted. Clearing the second stage of water was virtually effortless, it could be done either with a slight puff of air or by pushing the thumb-actuated purge button.

Overall, the Omega II breathes easy and dry. It feels remarkably light and natural, owing to its light weight and smooth swivel at both ends of the 27 inch hose. This regulator would be a good companion on a deep dive. An update on a proven design that is still at the forefront of regulator technology, the Omega II should meet the needs of the most demanding diver. It carries a one year warranty on all rubber, Teflon and nylon parts, filter screen and hoses. Everything else is covered for the lifetime of the original owner.

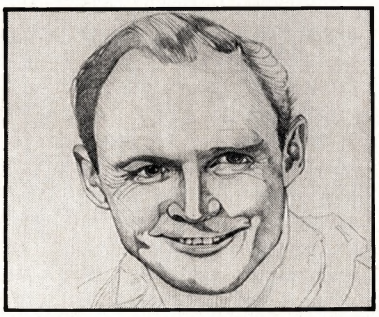
Oceanic's Omega II regulator has a first stage with two high pressure ports on the case and four low pressure ports on a swivel. A Maxflo kit can be added, which offers a fifth low pressure port and a second stage hose with a one-half inch fitting. The second stage has a lever action, downstream servo valve and is available in six transparent Lexan colors or a black Noryl version.





Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS

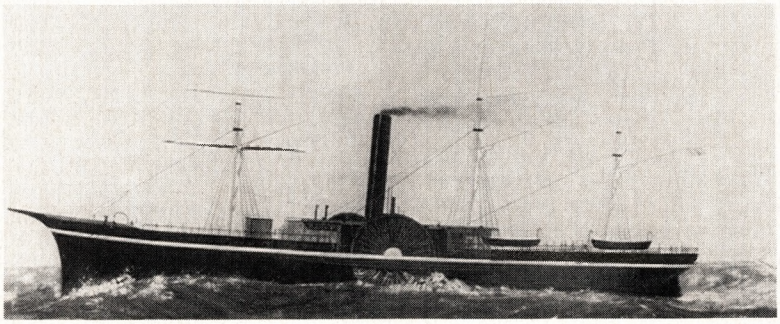


How do you find a vessel sunk somewhere north of Cuba in 1857 in 8,000 feet of water? That was the question that had to be answered by the Columbus-American Discovery Group of Ohio.

The group is: "a multi-disciplinary organization formed to explore deep ocean cultural sites and recover artifacts of intrinsic and historical value." Three important derivatives were spawned by the work on this specific wreck. Advanced deep ocean technology was developed, scientific and historical information was accumulated, and the knowledge gained was disseminated to the interested public. The knowledge and skills of technical experts and contractors from several marine and marine related fields were integrated to reach these objectives.

According to Columbus-America, the management team is comprised of Thomas Thompson, principal director; along with Robert Evans and Barry Schatz, directors. In this core group are men with degrees in research science and marine engineering and experience as geologic consultants and as a journal-

(Continued on Page 156)



photo/courtesy Mariners Museum

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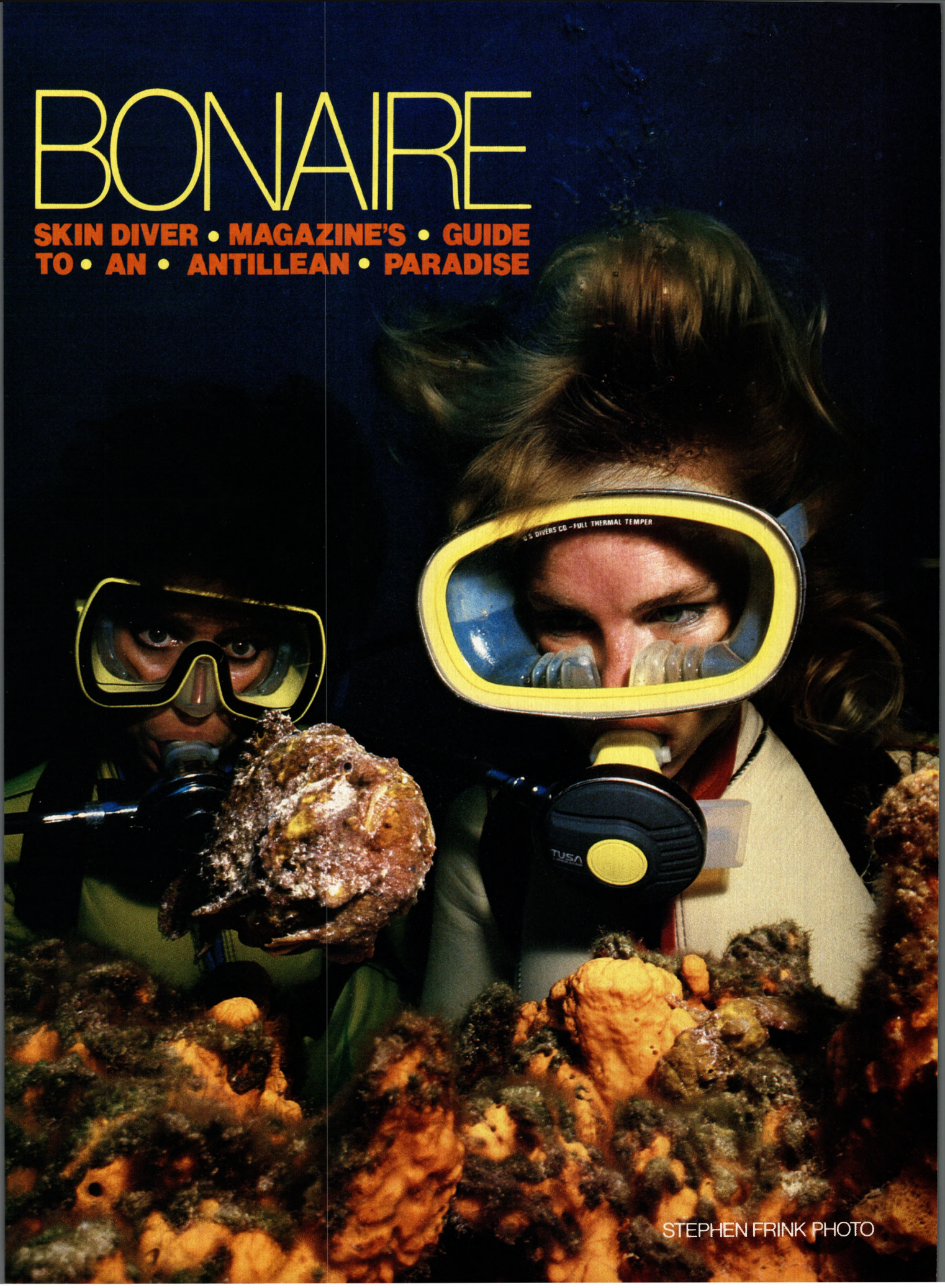
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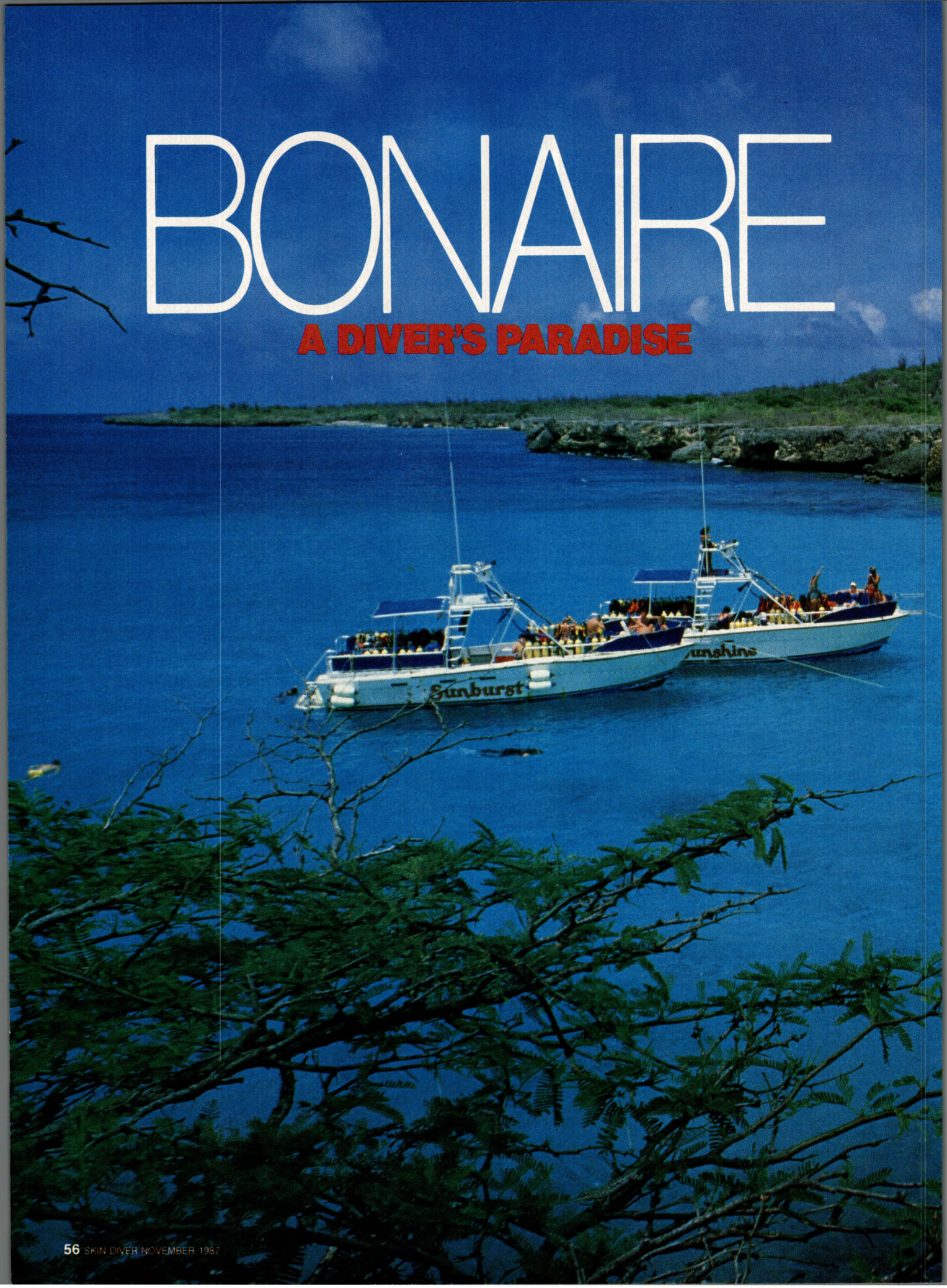
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STEPHEN FRINK PHOTO

BONAIRE

A DIVER'S PARADISE





TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

The automobile license legend proclaims "Bonaire . . . Divers Paradise." Compare the basic components of an imaginary diver's paradise to determine if this grand claim is hyperbole or fact: Warm, clear water should be the first ingredient. Average lateral visibility should be at least 80 feet and the water temperature should range from the mid 70s (°F) to the low 80s to foster both healthy corals and diver comfort. There should be diverse and multitudinous fish populations, rich coral reefs close to shore and magnificent sponges and gorgonians for vibrant color accents.

The island should preferably be semi-arid so that freshwater runoff from rainfall would never degrade the visibility. It should be at least large enough so as to provide a barrier to the prevailing winds, thereby creating a consistent lee side, and have enough shoreline to support miles of coral reef. There should be a tremendous number of dive sites along this leeward shore, most of which could be reached from either boat or beach. In an ideal scenario, another island would be just off the leeward coast so there would be even more protected dive sites. This hypothetical diver's paradise should be far to the south of the probable path of winter storms, which could affect the consistency of dive operations.

The air temperature of this diver's paradise should average in the 80s, moderated by a slight cooling trade wind, and most of the days should be cheerfully sunny. To make this diving paradise work there should be quality daily air service; ample resorts and hotels; boat transportation; and the necessary scuba and underwater photo services. There should be guesthouses and condominiums to provide economy and diversity to lodging pack-

BONAIRE

ages, a variety of fine dining and interesting shopping and, finally, the island should be fascinating enough in terms of topography to satisfy the hours spent above the surface.

In Bonaire, this diver's fantasy is fact.

GEOGRAPHY

Bonaire's shape is often likened to a boomerang, but to me it looks like a human foot about to kick a hackysack (leather ball), the hackysack being Klein Bonaire. Twenty-four miles long and three to seven miles in width, Bonaire is mostly flat at the south end, and quite rugged and fairly mountainous at the north end, with the maximum elevation of 790 feet at Brandaris. Bonaire's population is 10,012 and Klein Bonaire, just a mile offshore, is unpopulated.

The island's capital is Kralendijk (Krawl-en-dik, Dutch for "coral dike"), a colorfully picturesque seaside community with excellent dining, drinking and shopping options. It is here the Town Pier of night dive fame is located, as well as the fish market and marina. With a Kralendijk point of departure, there are two fascinating routes for exploration—itineraries to the north and to the south.

A rental car is much more an asset on Bonaire than on other islands. Of course, it is possible to take a taxi to the resort hotel where a dive/lodging/meal package has been booked, never leave the grounds and have a perfectly wonderful vacation. However, the rental car accesses the beautiful above water aspects of the island, as well as facilitates sampling the wide variety of excellent restaurants and shopping. For our recent tour of the island we enjoyed the use of a Honda mini-van from Budget Rent-A-Car, which was especially handy given the amount of camera and dive gear we carried. A four wheel drive Suzuki is another practical vehicle for the excursions to the north end of the island.

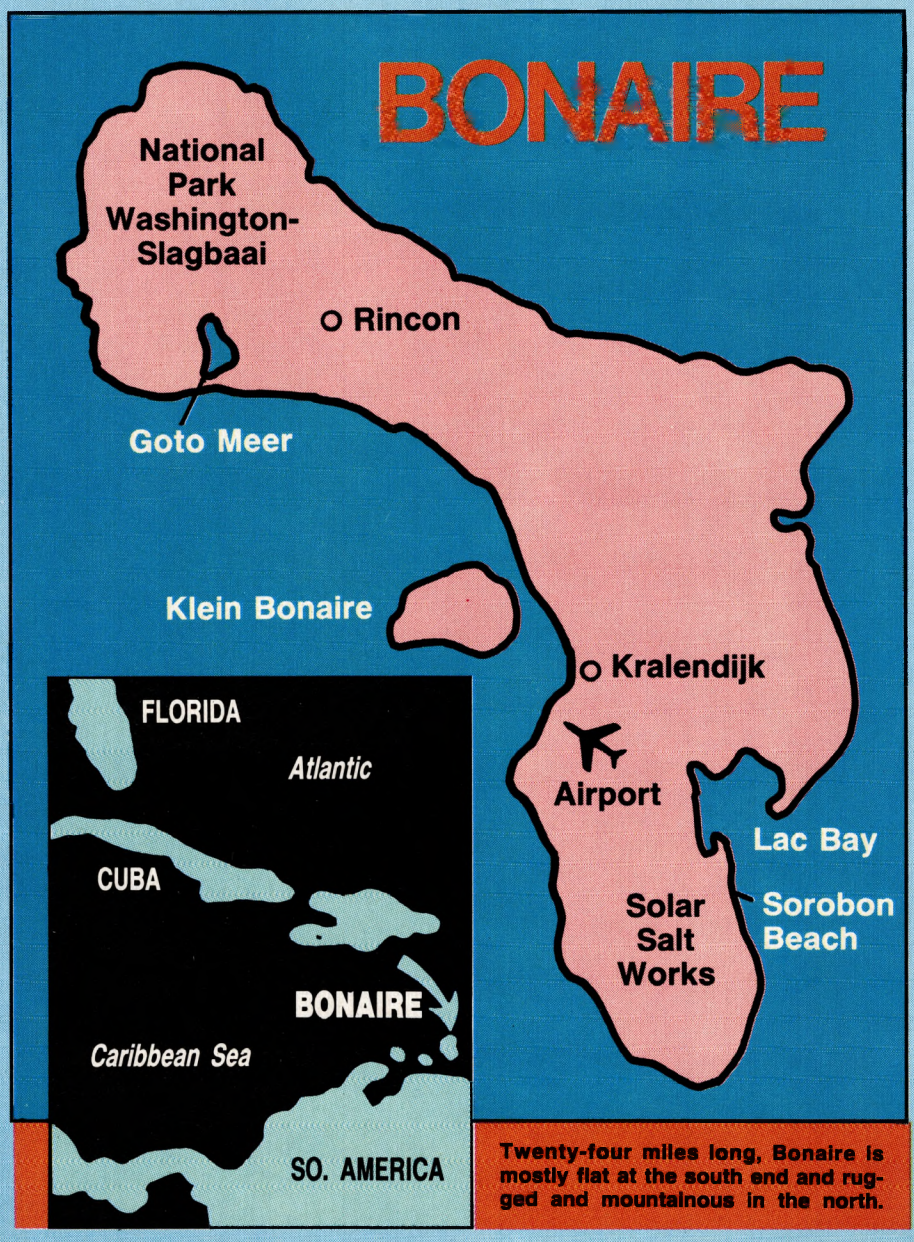
A voyage south from Kralendijk soon brings into view the mountains of snow-white salt piled at the Antilles International Salt Co. and the salt pier offshore. This massive pier is connected by a giant conveyor belt able to move 2,000 tons of salt per hour from the storage area. Ocean-going freighters pull up alongside the deepwater dock for loading. The pilings beneath the sea have been encircled by multi-colored encrusting and tube sponges and have become a favorite dive site.

Continuing around the southern part of the island one will see the slave huts and obelisks, have access to very interesting shore dives, be able to sunbathe and snorkel off beautiful Pink Beach and view Willemstoren, the oldest lighthouse on Bonaire (built in 1837). Here the topography is significantly different from other parts of the island. The land is flat, with wild donkeys grazing in arid patches inland and mangroves and wading seabirds along the coast.

A glance to seaward along the east coast of the island graphically demonstrates the advantages of a consistent, divable lee. For along the eastern shore the waters are almost always in violent motion. Just a few days a year do the prevailing winds reverse and leave this area in the lee and, on those days, dive operators such as Bruce Bowker will drop whatever they are doing and go dive the spectacular walls and shallow reef along the east and southeastern side of the island. Those dives are apparently legendary, but since the luck of the prevailing weather is so significant in terms of accessibility, legend is my only exposure to that side of the island so far.

Lac Bay and Sorobon Beach, the site of a lovely "clothes optional" resort (Sorobon Beach Resort), are remote and peacefully quiet. Sorobon is the Indian word for "to take good care," and the SOROBON BEACH RESORT is a couples and family oriented resort where the 20, one bedroom cottages blend with lush landscape in keeping with this conservationist theme. Near the tip of the Lac peninsula are huge piles of empty conch shells and the small fishing village of Cai.

Motoring northward from Kralendijk brings you to the more rugged and, to my eye, scenic parts of the island. The road soon narrows and winds along the coast, but it is well paved and the view along the shore is spectacular. Some of the obvious sights along the way include the transmitter for Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (Dutch World Radio), which rises like a giant electronic cobweb; beach access points with steps carved into the hillside such as the famous dive



Twenty-four miles long, Bonaire is mostly flat at the south end and rugged and mountainous in the north.

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site of Thousand Steps; and finally, nestled in a curve of the road, Karpata.

Karpata is a faithfully restored old country residence that is now occupied by the National Parks Foundation, the administrators for Washington National Park. At Karpata the road intersects with one fork leading to Bonaire's oldest village, Rincon. A second fork proceeds along the coast past the storage tanks of the Bonaire Petroleum Corporation (BOPEC) and finally to the southern end of Goto Meer before heading inland.

Goto Meer is a fairly large inland lake dotted with small islets and predictably populated by flamingos. While these birds may be frequently sighted at the south end of the island near the salt flats, and are occasionally seen in flight over some of the southern dive sites, Goto Meer strikes me as the most arresting background for flamingo photographs. There are commonly hundreds of the birds in Goto Meer and some feed close to the road.

The road will continue to wind through Dos Pos (Two Wells), which is overgrown with tall cactus, palms and banana trees. A short stop here to simply smell the lokki-lokki shrub is recommended before cresting the hill to enter Rincon from the west. From Rincon there is a modern highway leading back to Kralendijk or, for those with the time and sense of adventure, the journey may be continued into the Washington/Slagbaai National Park.

WASHINGTON/SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK

I have visited the Washington/Slagbaai National Park both by boat and by car, and each method has its own charms. Many of the dive operators now have full day excursions to the park and I have enjoyed many exceptional dives in this area. The shallow reef offshore begins with a magnificent stand of elkhorn coral in 10-20 feet of water that gradually merges with an almost solid concentration of high profile hard corals such as star, brain and, occasionally, pillar. This gradually slopes to the vertical wall face, which begins in 40-60 feet of water, depending on where you dive. The wall is adorned by black coral, massive tube sponges and vibrant elephant ear sponges; since the area is dived so rarely there is no evidence of diver impact.

By car, much more of the park interior is accessible. Two automobile routes through it have been set up, with yellow arrows marking the short (15 mile) route and green arrows for the longer (22 mile) route. Sights—including rugged ironshore, incredible beach and snorkeling areas and a mountainous terrain reminiscent of the American Southwest with the addition of parrots and flowering tropical plants—help justify a day spent driving through the Washington/Slagbaai National Park.

Before examining the diving off Bonaire, truly the island's number one attraction, some helpful travel tips are in order.

HOW TO GET THERE

There is an 8,100 foot paved runway on Bonaire served by ALM Antillean Airlines jet service, nonstop, out of Miami on Saturday and Sunday. There are daily direct connecting flights from both New York and Miami via Curacao on ALM and American serves Curacao daily out of Kennedy Airport with a stop in Aruba. Eastern Airlines (from Miami) also connects to Curacao via Aruba. Remember to reconfirm all departures at least 72 hours in advance as the plane is often fully booked. An airport tax of $5.75 (NAf 10) will be charged on departure.

U.S. citizens need only show proof of citizenship in the form of a passport, birth certificate or voter's registration, plus return or onward tickets. Note that a driver's license only demonstrates the ability to legally drive in a state and means nothing to a customs agent. Non-U.S. citizens will need a passport.

The time is Atlantic Standard year-

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The dinner menu offers nightly specials which include fresh fish, steaks and local island dishes.

ALL THE EXTRAS

Habitat is a full-service PADI 5 star training facility. Diving gear, Nikonos cameras and strobe lights are available for rental from the dive shop and photo/video lab. Repair work can be done right on the premises. There is a gift shop for souvenirs, post cards and sundries.

Experienced native dive guides and a full staff are available to advise and assist.

For entertainment, there are slide shows and lectures; sometimes even a serenade at dinner!

Arrangements can be made for hiking, island explorations, tours, picnics and deep-sea fishing.

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Bonaire offers warm, clear water; healthy fish populations; magnificent sponges and gorgonians; miles of coral reef and a tremendous variety of excellent dive sites. Dive services are specially structured for the convenience of visitors. On shore there is a variety of scenic and historic sights including salt flats, a lake and hosts of flamingos. Left: Black coral and sponges at Twixt off Klein Bonaire. Below: A Bonaire sunset.

BONAIRE

round, which means the island is on the same time as the East Coast of the U.S. in the summer. But, when our Daylight Savings Time is not in effect, Bonaire is one hour ahead of Eastern Standard.

As with many islands depending heavily on tourism, the U.S. dollar is widely accepted by merchants everywhere, as are major credit cards such as Visa, American Express, Optima and MasterCard. While credit cards are gaining acceptance island-wide, there are still some shops, restaurants and bars that only accept cash. The official currency is the Netherlands Antilles florin (NAf), referred to as the "guilder." The guilder is divided into 100 cents and bank notes are issued in various denominations from one to 500. One U.S. dollar is worth NAf 1.77 or, conversely, one NAf is worth .57¢ U.S. and floats with the dollar so the exchange rate remains constant.

The island's electrical service is 127 volts/50 cycles, which is enough of a difference from the U.S. standard of 110 volts/60 cycles that dive lights or underwater strobe chargers may overheat. Hair dryers seem to work OK since they generally run only for short periods of time. For prolonged charging of dive accessories, a voltage controlled charging station (available at some dive resorts) is definitely preferred. During our most recent visit to the island we stayed at the Bonaire Beach Hotel and plugged my strobe chargers into the hotel room outlets with no ill effect, but realized I might have been taking a chance, especially if the chargers did not have fuses in-line.

The official language of Bonaire is Dutch, but English is very commonly used throughout the island. A monolingual North American will have no problem communicating anywhere on the island and Spanish is just about as widely understood. Papiamento is the language of everyday use among native-born residents and is a mixture of Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, African and English.

SHOPPING/NIGHTLIFE

The majority of the most rewarding shopping is confined to Kralendijk where there are some low-duty shops on Breedestraat (an extension of J.A. Abraham Boulevard). The shops here offer local arts and crafts, T-shirts and post cards, coral jewelry and shellwork. A fine selection of luxury items may be found in stores such as Littman Jewelers, for example, which features black coral and gold jewelry as well as Chronosport and Rolex watches.

Much of the after-hours entertainment comes from night diving, for nowhere in the world are there so many beach or

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Top: Snorkeling at Playa Funchi. Above: Barbara Doernbach with a frogfish; an ALM flight arrives on the island. Below: The claim on the Bonaire license plate is fact—the island has all the special components, both above and below the water's surface, necessary to make it a "divers paradise." Right: Purple tube sponges.





BONAIRE

boat dives happening every night of the year. However, the casinos at the Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel and the Bonaire Beach Hotel offer adventure for the gambling crowd in what I found to be a very relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere. There are dozens of intimate bars, an underwater slide show or video structured for tourists available most nights, and even late night dancing at the E Wowo or Dynamite discos.

DIVING

The government and dive operators of Bonaire have taken an enlightened view of their resource. Rather than consider it inexhaustible, they realized the fragile nature of their coral reefs and marine life and have tried to balance recreational use with conservation in the development of the Bonaire Marine Park. All the coral reefs (virtually the entire coastline of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire) fall within the legislative protection of the marine park. From the high water tidemark down to 200 feet it is illegal to spearfish, take shells or coral (whether alive or dead), damage the reef by stepping or resting on coral heads, litter the reef and the adjacent coastal area or to anchor on the reef outside the Kralendijk harbor area.

Public moorings have been installed to reduce anchor damage and a new program to fund even more mooring buoys is in the works. The Sea Tether concept proposes that more than 100 new mooring buoys would expand the range of available diving and add the diversity of absolutely undived reefs, reduce people pressure on the "name" reefs and make room for the expansion of boats and operations inevitable on an island as ideally suited for diving as is Bonaire. The cost of the Sea Tethers shall be borne by the users; i.e. you and I, the sport divers who visit Bonaire. This will not be in the form of a tax, but as a voluntary contribution. For a modest $150 you can have the satisfaction of helping the reef ecology of Bonaire and this also entitles you to name the reef you have supported. I've got my eye on a beautiful spot of vertical wall face off Washington Park for my $150. Hopefully, by this time next year, you can be diving near the mooring buoy at Think Frink Reef. Contributions to the Sea Tether program, as well as the proposed name of your reef, may be directed to Don Stewart at Captain Don's Habitat.

DIVE SITES

The dive sites along Bonaire and Klein Bonaire are quite diverse. While the sites along the south end of the island are different than those up north, and the diving around Klein Bonaire varies from that of



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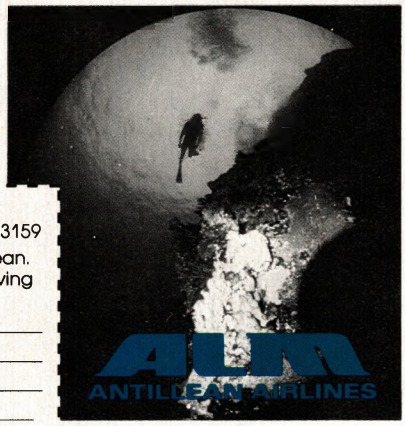
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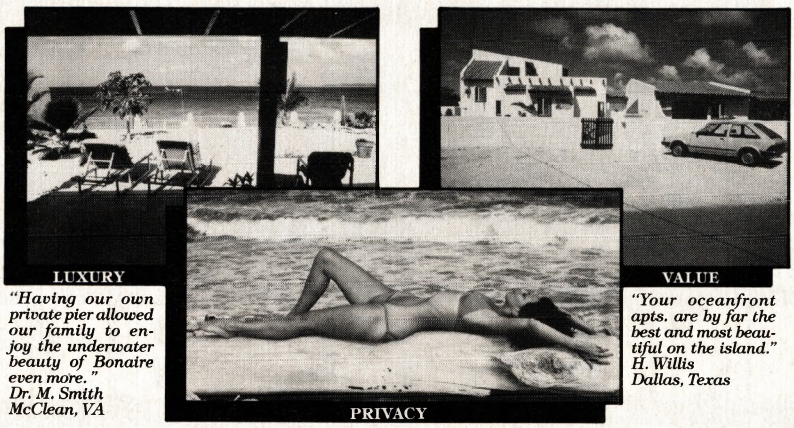


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BONAIRE

the main island, some similarities remain. Typically, there is abundant, healthy coral just a few fin kicks from the shore or hotel dock, and the reef will gradually slope until a more vertical wall beginning in 50 feet or less plummets to 150 feet or more. Most of the dive sites display subtle variations on this same shallow reef/vertical mini-wall theme, but the resultant variety is endlessly fascinating.

Often, there will be elkhorn and staghorn corals, as well as some short tube sponges and scattered stony corals in the very shallow part of the reef. As the depths gradually increase there may be some higher profile star and brain coral heads, more seafans and gorgonians and the tube and encrusting sponges will be more evident. Along the drop-off there will likely be some of the largest purple tube sponges you have ever seen, as well as immense orange elephant ear sponges, black coral forests and delicate azure vase sponges. There will be lettuce slugs and nudibranchs, banded coral shrimp and anemones—and if you look carefully, the stars of the Bonaire reef display, frogfish and seahorses. Bonaire richly deserves its reputation as "macro capital of the Caribbean," but the larger fish are equally impressive.

Queen angelfish are more plentiful and easier to photograph off Bonaire than possibly anywhere else. Spanish hogfish, parrotfish, trunkfish, sergeant majors, spotted drums, barracudas, filefish, trumpetfish and, of course, the ever-present yellowtail snappers, all contribute to the Bonaire piscine procession. Eels are especially plentiful on Bonaire. The spotted morays of Sampler seem aggressively evident owing to their desensitization by the divemasters, but actually make fairly innocuous photographic subjects. There are resident green morays on a number of different dive sites and the columns beneath the Town Pier host spotted, green, chain, golden, viper and conger eels—as well as an incredible concentration of other, easily approachable marine life.

Nor does the range of Bonaire aquatic wildlife end with the more common reef tropicals. Manta rays have occasionally been sighted and dolphins are fairly common visitors, swimming by groups of divers, usually just maddeningly out of effective camera range. One of the most frustrating examples of the "you should have been here last week" syndrome happened the day after I left Bonaire last time. A group on a Dive Bonaire charter were diving the wreck of the *Hilma Hooker* when a whale shark came to visit. Only half the group actually saw the silent intruder, but for those few divers it was their underwater experience of a lifetime

and several even got the behemoth on film. The diving off Bonaire is always very good. On special occasions it's great!

Most of the most popular dive sites around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire are numbered and named and just those appearing on the Marine Park Guide total more than 40. Reef sites such as Alice in Wonderland, Calabas, Hands Off, Southwest Corner, Twixt, Valerie's Hill, Carl's Hill, Sampler, No Name, Ebo's Reef, Jerry's Jam, Cliff, Small Wall Karpata, Thousand Steps and Rappel have enthralled literally hundreds of thousands of divers over the years and justify their fame.

The Salt Pier and the Town Pier are not so much coral reefs, although there is ample coral and sponge life on and around the pilings. These areas are more like intense fish habitats with schools of bright baitfish swirling; jacks, eels and groupers awaiting a meal; and an infinite variety of macro life inhabiting the vibrant orange, yellow and red sponge-blotched pilings. There are even fascinating wreck dives on Bonaire, especially the *Hilma Hooker*. Sunk on September 12, 1984, the 230 foot freighter now sits in 90 feet of water attracting more marine life daily.

RESORTS AND DIVE OPERATIONS

Bonaire diving services are specially structured for the convenience of visitors. The boats are well suited to the general sea conditions, tanks are available at all hours for unlimited shore diving and there are even truck excursions arranged for beach diving/land tours. The following is a brief description of some of the options:

BONAIRE SCUBA CENTER: Just to the north of Kralendijk, at the Bonaire Beach Hotel, is the Bonaire Scuba Center. Operated by Eddie Statia and Al Catalfumo, the center's diving hardware consists of three flattop boats powered by 100 horsepower outboard engines and well equipped for divers. The large Ford truck almost serves as a fourth boat, for the truck dive excursions are an oft-requested feature. Front Porch, the fine beach dive just in front of the resort, is especially popular for divers on the unlimited packages and features a dramatic drop-off just a short swim from the pier and even an old tugboat sitting on her side in only 70 feet of water.

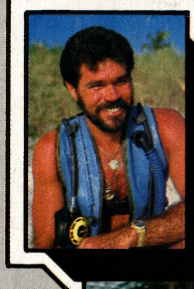
There is a complete beachfront dive shop at the Bonaire Scuba Center, where rental gear is checked out, and the aluminum cylinders are filled from the twin 16 cfm compressors with a cascade system. A sign up board gives two choices of destinations on a first come, first served basis or, if 12 or more divers are traveling together, they can have their own boat and divemaster for the week. A Photo Center is incorporated into the dive facility, with E-6 film processing, camera rentals and underwater video.

The Bonaire Scuba Center, like most diving services affiliated with resort ho-

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Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel & Casino provides comfortable guestrooms and studio apartments. It's the Caribbean's most complete dive resort, with pools, Jacuzzis, boutiques, a completely equipped conference facility, and Photo Bonaire which helps you capture your scuba adventures forever. This renowned on-site professional photo facility offers 24-hour E-6 processing, complete instruction, still photo and video equipment rental, and a full range of services for the underwater photographer. Our Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire offers complete instruction courses on all levels, from resort and certification courses to advanced, wreck and rescue dive courses.

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BONAIRE

tels, is happy to accommodate divers not booked into the hotel. However, the largest percentage of its clientele, of course, comes from the guests of the BONAIRE BEACH HOTEL AND CASINO. The spacious grounds contain 148 double rooms (including three suites), the waterfront Beach Hut restaurant, a saltwater swimming pool, 600 feet of white sand beach (the largest on the island), a watersports center, two lighted tennis courts, the Black Coral Casino and the Neptune restaurant for less casual dining and parties.

Captain Don Stewart is the colorful and fascinating host at CAPTAIN DON'S HABITAT and the new upscale accommodations directly adjacent—HAMLET. The story of how Captain Don arrived on Bonaire in 1962 aboard his sailboat *Valerie Queen* and began the first dive operation on the island, is the frequently told stuff of dive industry legend. Today, he and his staff preside over the waterfront dive/lodging complex at Habitat.

Amid a lush, tropical setting, Habitat cottages are typically occupied by divers, snorkelers, sport fishermen and nature lovers. A scenic open air restaurant and bar overlook the reef just offshore, as does the large, full-service dive complex. A pier adjacent to the airy dive center facilitates the boat loading for the daily reef tours and makes the shore diving even more convenient.

Accommodations are in nine cottages with two bedrooms, kitchenette, living room and covered veranda; four single cottages; and six double economy rooms (private bath but no kitchenette or living room). The Quarterdeck Restaurant and Captain's Bar on premises amply satisfy the food and drink imperatives. Throughout the public areas of the resort (although Captain Don prefers to regard Habitat as a full service dive operation with accommodations) are the magazine features and memorabilia that document Don's 25 years in the dive business on the island.

Habitat is also the primary base of operations for a unique guided dive program, Dee Scarr's TOUCH THE SEA. It does not run in the summer since Dee is in the states during that time, but the rest of the year the program is a very popular short course in making friends with the residents of the reef. Dee personally escorts two to four divers to some of her very special sites, including the reefs just offshore. Her affection for the octopus, frogfish, peacock flounder, moray eels and angelfish that she has befriended is

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Ithaca, NY 14850
(800) 367-DIVI

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Phone: 011-599-7-8080

Sunset Inn/Dive Inn
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Buddy Dive Resort
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Sand Dollar Beach Club
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contagious and imparts a fresh appreciation for the fragility and wonder of the coral reef and its residents. In addition, her guests will likely see more of the reef than ever before as a function of Dee's sensitive and selective vision.

Hamlet is a series of beautiful villas on a bluff overlooking the Caribbean. Adjacent to Habitat and sharing Captain Don's restaurant and dive facilities, Hamlet is configured as luxury studio apartments and suites that are available for short term rental or private ownership. The concept is more that of a village than a hotel, and while there are eight villas presently available, nine are under construction now and even more are projected for the next two to three years.

SAND DOLLAR DIVE AND PHOTO at the Sand Dollar Beach Club is a new operation with tremendous promise. Owned by Andre and Gabrielle Nahr, the dive operation began the day after Christmas last year but is off to a fine start with a retail center built on a unique waterfront platform with an adjacent restaurant and bar.

There is an E-6 film processing facility, camera and video rentals and Andre also has the knowledge to save a flooded Nikonos camera. The dive boat is a 30 foot V-hull powered by two 85 horsepower outboards and used for small groups of eight divers or less for one tank dives. A second boat will probably be in service by the time this article is published. The whole dive center is just a few feet above the water and the convenience factor is exceptional. We found the personnel to be very friendly and helpful, and since this facility is still being discovered, the number of visiting divers is usually small.

The SAND DOLLAR BEACH CLUB is a condominium complex with studio, one, two and three bedroom villas available for ownership or short term rental. At present there are 24 units, but by March there should be another 38 in place. The 18 month projection is for 80 condominiums (some of which will even be two story townhouses) with shops, freshwater swimming pool, tennis courts and health clubs. The cost efficiency for dive/lodging packages is good for two in a studio or one bedroom villa, but is exceptional with more people occupying a two or three bedroom villa.

Bruce Bowker's CARIB INN is a small and very personalized dive resort. There are ten rooms basically surrounding a central courtyard with freshwater swimming pool and dive shop. Six of the ten have kitchenettes, two are two bedroom units and two are efficiencies. At least 85 percent of the occupants at the Carib Inn year-round are divers and services are very much geared to this special interest.

The two dive boats are 24 foot Privateers (identical hulls but one has a cabin and one is an open fisherman), each powered by new 225 horsepower outboards. This makes these boats very fast and, accordingly, expands the range of sites. This comes in handy since Bruce makes a practice of trying to sample different spots and, weather permitting, will even go to the windward side of the island. Of course, since people come to Bonaire with an expectation of diving certain famous reefs they may have heard of, this desire will be accommodated. But, it is still exciting to dive where few have gone before, even to explore anew and this is part of Bruce Bowker's appeal to his very loyal following.

Elaine Bale and Jim Surber have recently joined Bruce as full time instructors/dive guides, thereby allowing the scuba education programs to expand. The classroom is a covered gazebo overlooking the Caribbean and the open water work is in the shallow, clear, protected waters just offshore. It is hard to imagine a more inspiring way to learn scuba.

The DIVI FLAMINGO BEACH HOTEL AND CASINO is clearly the busiest of the dive resorts on Bonaire, regularly handling more than 120 divers on week long packages. However, the efficiency that has become synonymous with a Peter Hughes dive operation has not been sacrificed as DIVE BONAIRE continues to grow. Rather, boats, compressors and

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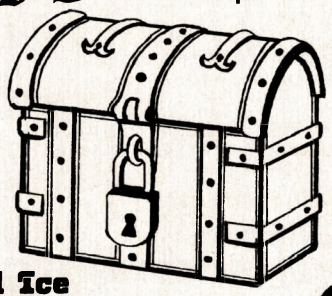
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even a second dive center have been added to assure the maximum in personalized services for guests. At present there are 12 boats, making the Dive Bonaire fleet the largest in the resort diving business anywhere. Most of the boats are deep V-hulls with diesel power, although two flattops and two custom designed cathedral hull vessels are also in service. All the boats have been carefully customized for diver convenience with tank racks, dive platforms with extended ladders and marine electronics.

In terms of other diver hardware, Dive Bonaire and Dive Bonaire II have more than 360 tanks (aluminum 80s and 50s), three Davey 50 cfm compressors and 85,000 cubic feet of air storage. Tanks are always on board the dive boats and dockside guest gear storage further maximizes diver convenience. Even though this operation is the largest in the Caribbean, a staff of 40 and the close personal scrutiny of Peter Hughes and dive operations manager Harry Ward helps keep it running smoothly.

Having been in the underwater photo retail business for nine years, I especially appreciate when an underwater photo center is operated professionally and Jerry Schnabel and Susan Swygert are doing a wonderful job administering PHOTO BONAIRE. Conveniently located in the center of the Flamingo Beach Hotel, Photo Bonaire offers daily E-6 film processing, still camera and video rentals and a wide range of video and underwater photo instruction. A new feature is custom Cibachrome prints from 8 x 10 to 16 x 20 inches. It is comforting to know that, should a camera malfunction, it can probably be fixed or, should an exotic photo accessory be required, it is probably in stock. Nikon is working very closely with Photo Bonaire in establishing an ongoing school of underwater photography. For 1988, there will be courses with either visiting underwater photo professionals or Jerry and Suzie every month. In addition, photo coaching sessions are available that allow the visiting photographer to not only hone his/her skills, but take advantage of Jerry and Suzie's vast knowledge of where to find the most photogenic marine life.

The Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel and Casino consists of a sprawling waterfront complex of 110 double guestrooms plus 40 new, fully equipped studio units, all air-conditioned with private patio or balcony. Two freshwater swimming pools, a conference center, two restaurants, two bars and the casual Flamingo Casino all contribute to a very complete diver's vacation resort.

BUDDY DIVE RESORT presently con-

sists of 10 villas (four are two bedroom and six are one bedroom), but construction is underway for another ten seaside villas and a dockside dive shop. A 24 foot open fisherman powered by a 175 horsepower outboard (for boat dives) complements the several VW buses and pickup truck that are used for the shore dive excursions. Dive instruction is a high priority at Buddy and the multi-lingual staff can teach scuba certifications in English, Dutch, German, French, Spanish or Papiamento.

The DIVE INN is owned by Anton and Babs Van den Heetkamp and works closely with the adjacent SUNSET INN for lodging divers. These facilities just opened a new retail center and specialize in boat diving for small groups. There are three instructors on staff and the main dive boat is a 26 foot V-hull hull powered by a 200 horsepower outboard.

SUNSET INN is a comfortable and inexpensive accommodation. Each unit has its own refrigerator, cable color TV and telephone. All services such as diving are á la carte rather than structured dive/lodging packages. Hugo Gerharts, the owner of Sunset Inn, also owns SUNSET VILLAS, which consists of ten villas, each fully furnished, including cable color television. Whether Sunset Inn or Sunset Villas, the target market is traveling divers and both properties offer features that divers want at a realistic price.

The BONAIRE BEACH BUNGALOWS are directly on the waterfront just three minutes south of Kralendijk and consist of seven, two bedroom villas, each with kitchen, bathroom, living room and porch; and each with a majestic view of the Caribbean and Klein Bonaire. Two docks and a permanent barbecue pit front the palm lined sundeck and excellent diving at the reef known as Roy's Choice is just offshore. Diving packages are with Bruce Bowker at the Carib Inn, although the units may also be booked without diving services. For groups of four or more, these units can provide substantial economy and convenience and the relaxing sound of the waves lapping against the seashore is thrown in at no additional charge.

The BACHELOR'S BEACH APARTMENTS offer yet another lodging option. These Spanish style villas have spacious sundecks landscaped with cactus and bougainvillea and a private pier to simplify boat access and beach dives. Fully furnished one or two bedroom suites can accommodate four to six people. Each unit has its own living room, bath and kitchen. Dive services can easily be arranged with any of the island's shops.

THE LIVE-ABOARD OPTION

The *ANTILLES AGGRESSOR* is an impressive addition to the Bonaire dive option. New to the island for 1987, this liveaboard boat is a sister ship to the *Cayman Aggressors*. A 110 foot custom alu-

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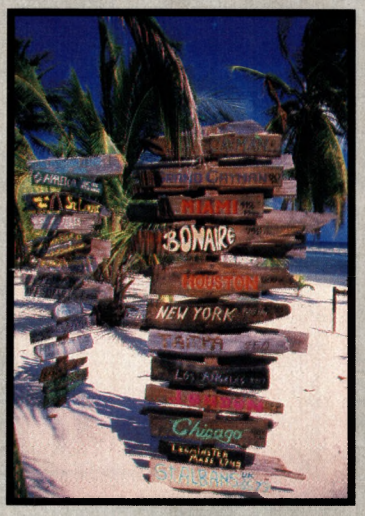
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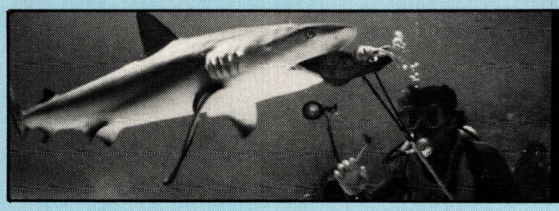
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Much of Bonaire's fine diving is very near shore, but the *Antilles Aggressor* does not intend to visit the same sites as might be accessed from a land base. Rather, the intent of the live-aboard concept is to extend the available range of dive sites. For example, the *Antilles Aggressor* makes it much easier to spend more time in the Washington Park area and, if weather permits, more of the exciting dive potential of the island's windward shore can be experienced. Moreover, the diving is not restricted to just Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. With the expanded cruising range of the live-aboard, the magnificently pristine pinnacles and seamounts off Curacao may be explored and the shallow reefs and drop-off of Klein Curacao can be visited regularly. These dive sites are fascinating because of the frequency of pelagic encounters, especially around the open ocean pinnacles. Here it is not uncommon to see turtles and eagle rays, an occasional shark or even a pod of passing dolphins. The brilliant filter feeders and corals that adorn the walls add color and provide refuge for a tremendous range of reef tropicals but it is the constant element of surprise and wonder lurking off in the distant blue that I find most exciting.

CONCLUSION

The variety of diving, lodging, dining and touring options on Bonaire make it a destination worth repeated visits. While there is ample underwater activity to satisfy the most dedicated diver, there is also a lot for a nondiving spouse to do. The busiest time of the year is winter, but this year I visited Bonaire in the summer and found very little difference in air temperature or prevailing breeze. In fact, Bonaire is exceptionally comfortable year-round. If anything, summer offers lower rates, warmer water and less crowded dive boats. On the other hand, in the winter, when you might get blown out elsewhere in the Caribbean, the diving off Bonaire is still predictably fine. I guess the hardest decision is not whether to go to Bonaire, but when.

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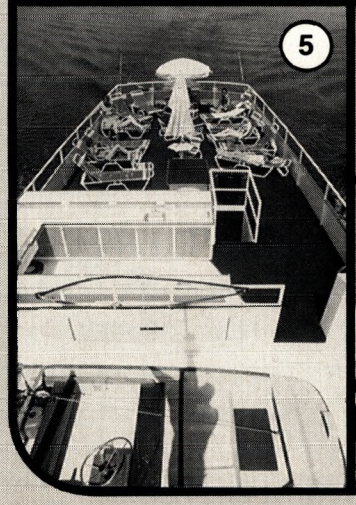
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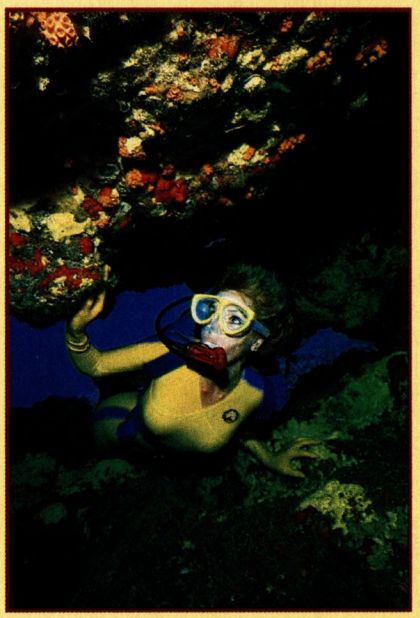
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TRAVEL





Lahaina divers combines service and professionalism with its dive charters, store and programs. Left: The 43 foot Delta *Reliant*. Above: The table rock formation off Lanai known as Knob Hill.

LAHAINA DIVERS
On Magnificent Maui

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROD AND KATHY CANHAM

The Hawaiian island of Maui is a Polynesian playland of breathtaking beauty and historic charm. A mecca for vacationing families, Maui has diverse offerings of sightseeing, shopping and watersport activities. Lahaina Divers, a people oriented company, combines service and professionalism with its dive charters, retail operation and instructional programs.

In the old whaling village of Lahaina at 710 Front Street, the retail store is a well stocked model of efficiency. The personable staff extends friendly, warm greetings to new and repeat customers alike.

Owner Blain Roberts has built his company on the premise that customers should feel welcome. Says Roberts, "Our main responsibility is to the people. Since they have invested the time and money to come here, we want to bridge the relationship between them and our staff. Letting them know we're going to have fun together, safely, is our top priority."

Established in 1978, and now a PADI Five Star IDC training facility, Lahaina Divers offers a variety of classes, specialties and instructor programs under the tutelage of course director/shop manager, Lori Bachelor.

The inshore reefs surrounding Maui are easily accessible from shore but limited in their offerings. Maui's best diving is to be found at either nearby Molokini Crater or Lanai. Lahaina Divers schedules two tank interisland trips daily aboard either of their custom-built boats, the 31 foot *Nomad* or 43 foot *Reliant*.

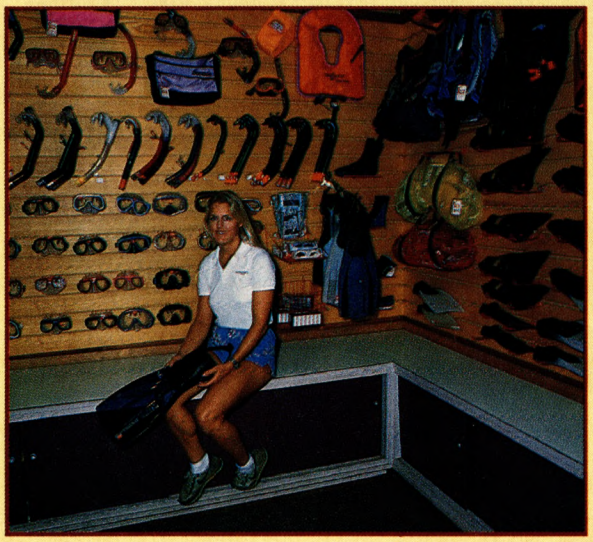
Reliant is certified for 25 passengers, but for comfort and more personalized service, charters are limited to 16. On board amenities include an enclosed cabin, spacious seating, marine head and freshwater shower. *Nomad*'s charters are limited to 10 divers, with all the comforts offered by the larger *Reliant*.

After guests check in at the shop, their personal gear is transported to the boats at the nearby town pier. The crew jokes with the customers, making everyone feel at ease. The laid-back atmosphere belies a completely professional operation. While passengers relax and enjoy the scenic West Maui Mountains, the crew is busy doling out weightbelts and setting up gear. For rental equipment, Lahaina Divers uses Scubapro regulators and Stabilizing Jackets, each of which is equipped with an Air II alternate air source. Boat captain Peter Hilley explains that, "This way we can do a standard safety check on everyone's gear and take care of any potential equipment problems. It helps avoid last minute repairs and allows the customers time to relax."

The divemaster interviews each of the divers to find out diving experience, certification level and personal requests. Once there, a thorough briefing is given with a description of the site, marine life and dive profile. Divers are invited to join a guided tour of the site or can break off with their buddies to explore on their own.

TRAVEL







Top: Close encounters with sea turtles are often experienced in Maui's waters. Above: Blain Roberts, owner of Lahaina Divers. Left: Lori Bachelor, course director at Lahaina Divers and shop manager.

Reliant's eight foot transom door opens to a wide swim platform. There, divers sit and are assisted into their gear, then into the water. From the surface it becomes apparent why Hawaii is such a popular draw for divers. Water clarity averages 100+ feet and often reaches 150. Coping with the mild (75-81°F) water temperature is a personal consideration but usually necessitates a jacket only, with pants to protect against coral scrapes.

Underwater, a wide variety of colorful tropicals and invertebrates accentuates the spectacular lava formations. Molokini Crater's mid-channel location between the islands of Kahoolawe and Maui hosts a resident population of moray eels to pet, fish to feed and docile whitetipped reef sharks to observe. Manta rays and other pelagic critters often cruise by the crater for high voltage excitement.

Lanai has several sites to choose from with a topographical variety of lava ridges, tubes and caverns to dive in, around and through. The marine life that resides there is as plentiful as any Hawaii has to offer. Encounters with octopus, green sea turtles and colorful invertebrates are common.

The guides are experienced in finding and handling marine life. All are camera buffs and can photograph customers on their dives. Boat captain Lee Bachelor also offers an U/W video service for $125. Customers are filmed diving with marine life; the tape is dubbed with music and titles for a professional touch.

After the dives, sliced fruit and cold sodas are provided. The ride back to Lahaina can be as exciting as the dive itself. Along with the beautiful scenery, boats are often escorted by spinner dolphins or bottlenosed porpoise. Between the months of November and April, humpback whales transit through these waters to mate and calve. Though divers cannot get into the water with the whales, surface displays of breaching, tail lobs and pectoral slaps are thrilling.

Reliant's 17 knot cruising speed returns the charter by 12:30 pm, allowing customers the time for lunch and the balance of the day with their families. Maui is host to a wide variety of natural and recreational attractions. The scenic coastal drive to Hana, the majestic Iao Needle and the otherworldly Haleakala Crater are all top-shelf attractions.

Front Street in Lahaina offers a plethora of gift shops and fine restaurants. The recently opened Lahaina Cannery Shopping Center adds to a list that includes the resorts at Kaanapali and Kapalua.

Maui's plentiful white sand beaches are a focal point for watersport enthusiasts. Parasailing, Jet Skiing and snorkeling are only a fraction of the activities available.

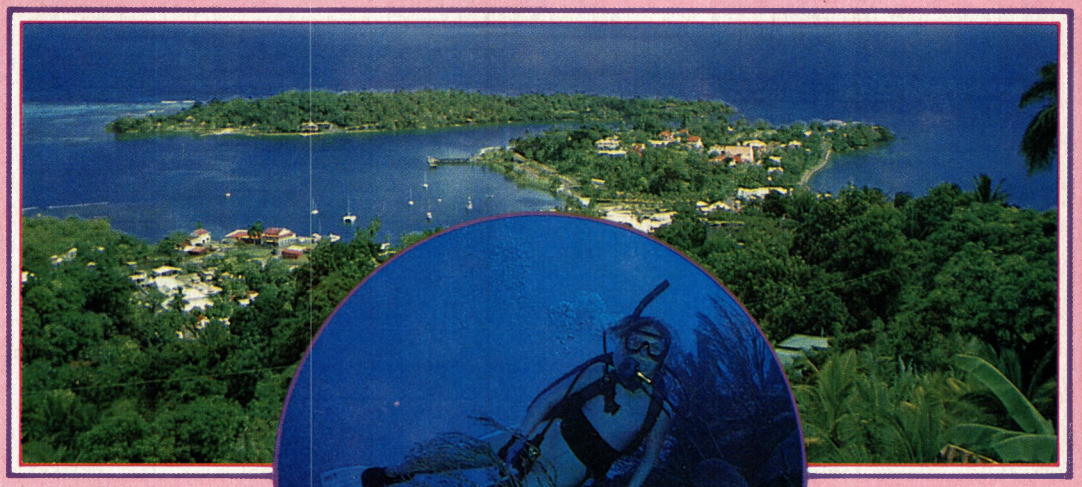
Lahaina Divers has afternoon introductory dives for the nondiver as well as two tank local dives and open water referral service. Night dives are now available on Monday and Thursday evenings and three tank interisland trips to Lanai are available on Wednesdays and Fridays.

With one toll free phone call divers can arrange dive/hotel and rental car packages through Lahaina Divers. Two standard offerings include a seven day/six night stay at the nearby Maui Islander Hotel, three, two tank interisland dive trips and rental car for $425 per person, double occupancy. For the avid diver, an eight day/seven night option with five, two tank interisland trips, one night boat dive and car rental is $625. Twelve dollars more per person per day can upgrade either package to a self-contained condominium. Lahaina Divers will custom-build a package to suit any customer's need on special request. Flights to Maui are frequent, affordable and direct from the mainland.

To keep its clientele abreast of updates, news events and special offerings, Lahaina Divers publishes a newsletter twice yearly. A contest was held for customers to design a new company logo. Michael McDonald of Milwaukie, Oregon submitted the winning entry. It depicts Maui's volcanic terrain above and below the sea. The design is professional, inviting and accurately reflects the personality of the company and its staff.

Those interested in finding out more about Lahaina Divers, its charters, packages or classes can telephone toll free (800) 367-8047, extension 102 or (808) 661-4505. You can write Lahaina Divers at 710 Front Street, Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii 96761.

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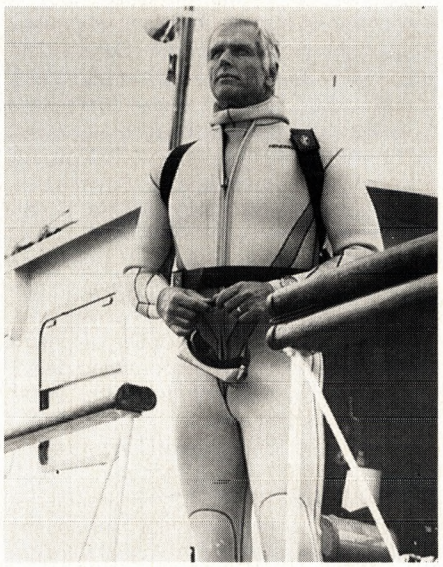
SEA HUNT IS BACK

Among the "new" TV shows debuting in September was Sea Hunt. It stars Ron Ely as Mike Nelson and Kimber Sissons

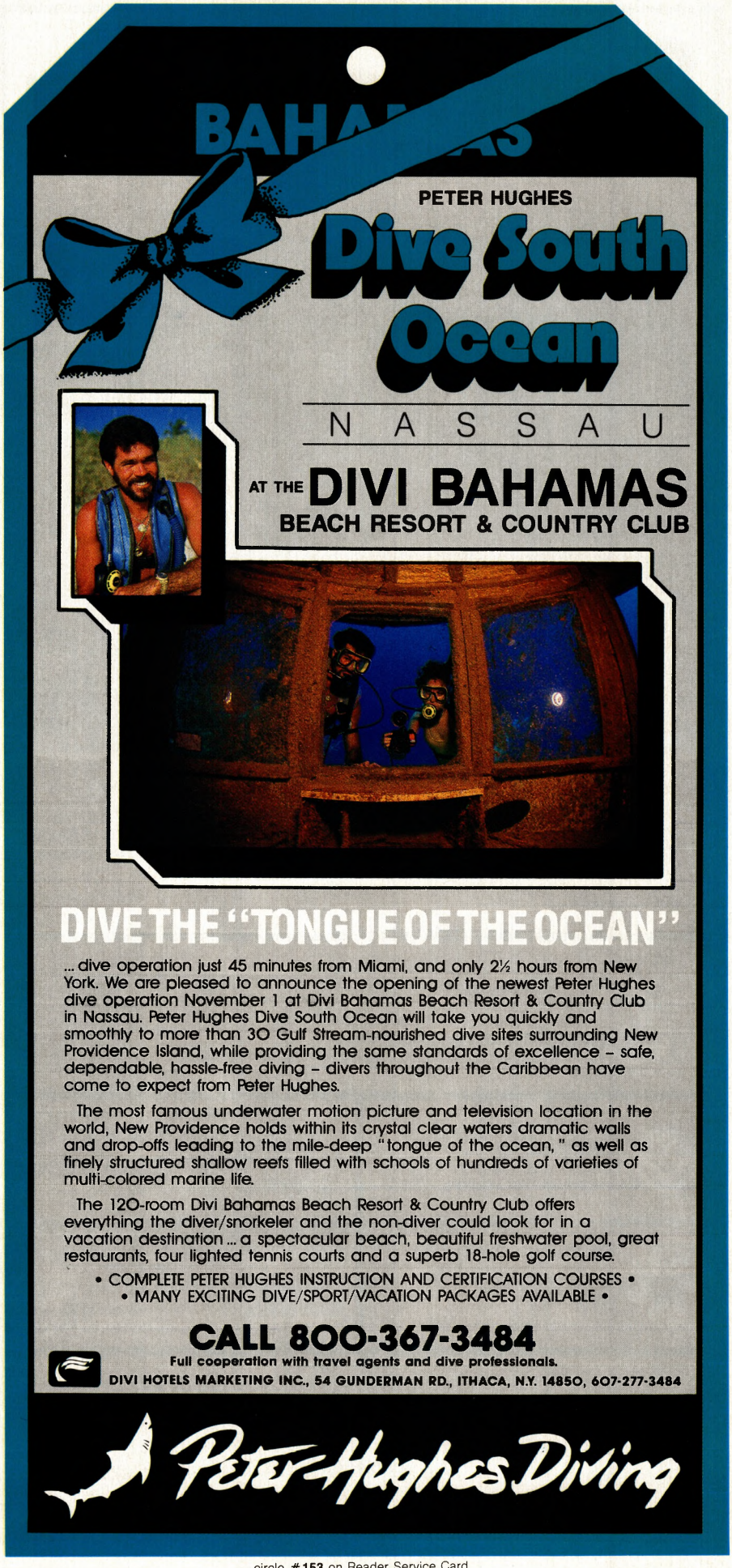


as his daughter Jennifer. The original series, with Lloyd Bridges as Mike Nelson, ran from 1957 to 1961.

According to the promotional materials, the new Sea Hunt, "will introduce a new generation of TV viewers to the exploits of the most famous scuba diver in the world as he fights battles against criminals, corporate greed, political corruption and sometimes, the sea itself."



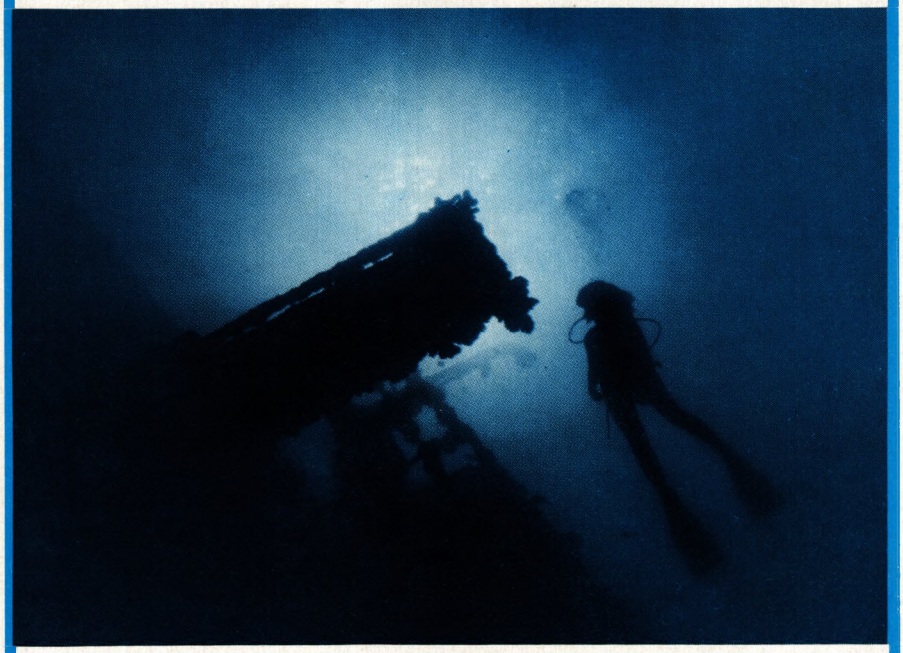
The new Mike Nelson, Ron Ely, is best known for his TV role as Tarzan. He learned to dive in 1961 while appearing in The Aquanauts, described as a thinly disguised network copy of Sea Hunt. Ely's TV daughter, Kimber Sissons, a former model, has completed roles in several feature films and appeared in numerous TV commercials, but this will be her first series. The new Sea Hunt is filmed in Victoria, British Columbia.



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THE CELTIC

Long Island Sound Wreck For The Experienced Only

BY KEVIN F. MCMURRAY

It was considered to be a routine run for the *Celtic*. The 145 foot scow, *Cape Race*, was loaded with three million pounds of scrap steel and tethered to the starboard side of the 146 ton tug. A small craft warning had been issued for that Saturday evening (November 17, 1984) by the Coast Guard—not an unusual occurrence for the bleak overcast days of late autumn on the Long Island Sound. The experienced crew of six aboard the *Celtic* had weathered worse seas then what they had been told to expect.

As the evening temperatures dropped to the low 30s (°F) and the 25 mph winds began to whip up the unpredictable sound, the *Celtic*, with the *Cape Race* in tow, steamed out into the clear, moonless night from the Bridgeport, Connecticut harbor at 8:00 pm. The estimated time of arrival in Port Newark, New Jersey was 8:00 the following morning.

Tug dispatcher Richard J. Pittner, radioing from Staten Island, New York, spoke to the first mate on the *Celtic*, Donald McGowan, at 9:00 that fateful evening. McGowan, asked if all was okay, had replied, "Fine, I'll talk to you in the morning."

Neither the first mate nor the dispatcher had any inkling of the impending disaster. The short dispatch from the *Celtic* was to be its last.

Pittner tried to raise the *Celtic* Sunday morning at 6:00 and then again at 8:00 without success. At 12:18 the Coast Guard was notified by Eklof Marine, the owners of the tug, of the vessel's failure to make port, and a search ensued. Three Coast Guard cutters, one helicopter and six police boats from nearby cities scoured the western sound for any sign of the *Celtic* or her crew.

During the search effort, Coast Guard petty officer Christian Von Kannerwurff spoke to the local media of a sense of something wrong when he said, "It is a very unusual situation. It was a professional tugboat, with an experienced skipper and working radios on board when

she departed."

Twenty hours later, under a spreading oil slick and 70 feet of water, the *Celtic* and the *Cape Race* were located by the USCG *Sauk* one and one-quarter miles south of Sheffield Island. The Norwalk police scuba team of Bruce Macklin and Russell Fallo were the first to make the descent through the murky, frigid waters to the sunken vessel. They banged on the steel hull, hoping for some response from any of the crew that might have somehow survived in an air pocket. There was none. Gaining entry to the *Celtic*, the divers located three bodies and returned to the surface with their grim findings.

The following day, Tuesday, the last three bodies were retrieved from the wreck. The location of the bodies, two in the wheelhouse, two in the stateroom, one in the engine room and one in the galley, spoke of the quickness with which the *Celtic* went down. The general alarm switch was in the off position. The *Celtic*'s only liferaft was found days later on a beach on the north shore of Long Island. It had not been inflated and was still intact in its container.



photo/Mark Gluckman

Divers return to the *Ski Knot* from a dive on the *Celtic* in 70 feet of water.

The findings of a formal inquest by the Coast Guard were inconclusive since there were no survivors or witnesses. Although a great deal of evidence was amassed during the inquest, only speculations were made as to the reasons for the sinking. The master and the crew were found to be experienced and fit. The autopsies found no evidence of drugs or alcohol in the victims' blood. The 26 year old *Celtic* was deemed to be in shipshape condition with a steady and thorough maintenance history.

The findings as to the seaworthiness of the *Cape Race*, however, were most enlightening. The *Race*'s hatches were not covered and there were several fractures on the hull, leading the Coast Guard to speculate that, "The most probable cause was that the *Cape Race* suffered a hull failure below the waterline, owing to unknown cause, and sank. The weight of the sinking *Cape Race* tripped the *Celtic* and pulled it below the surface before the

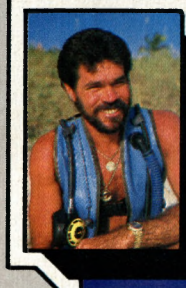
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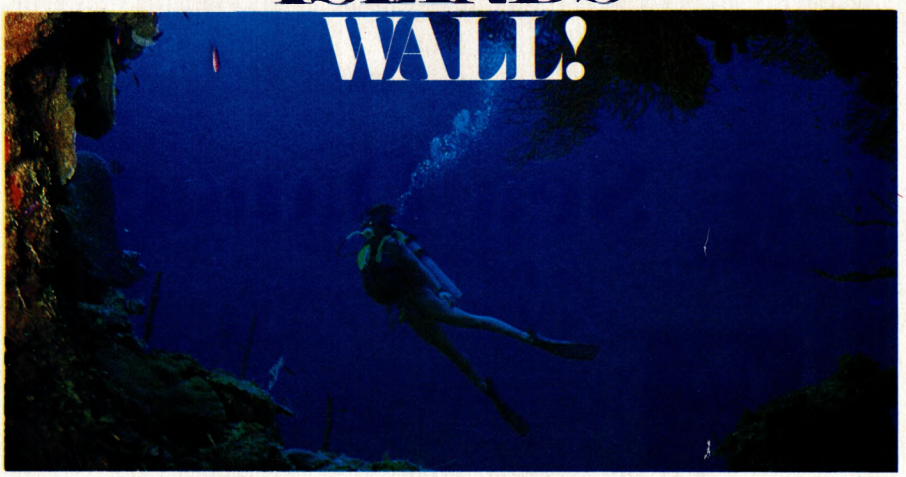
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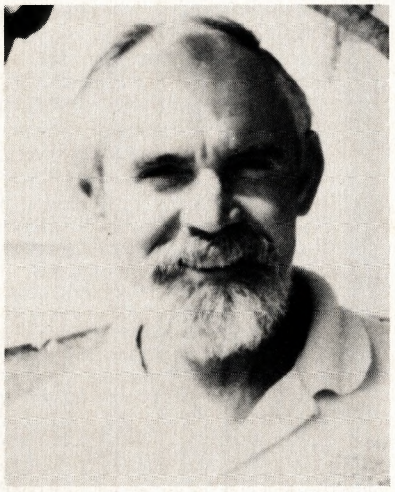
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crew could take action to release the towing lines."

Tragically and most pointedly, this probable cause was further buttressed by the fact the engine controls were indicating an order of *Full Astern* and the rudder was found in a hard to port position—indicating a last frantic effort by the pilot to free the *Celtic* from the sinking scow.

The *Celtic* and *Cape Race* are unusually good wrecks to dive even though they lie in the often inhospitable waters of western Long Island Sound. Both vessels lie upright on a rocky shelf known as the Cable and Anchor Reef, approximately two and one-half nautical miles south of the entrance to Norwalk harbor. A yellow buoy bearing the inscription, "Wreck, The Celtic" along with the names of the divers who rigged it, serves as the only monument to the once proud workhorse of a tug that now quietly rests beneath it.

Secured to the wheelhouse by a chain, the buoy is relatively easy to locate. However, on my first trip to the site, ferreting out the buoy from the forest of lobster pots took a little time. At high tide the top of the wheelhouse is at 40 feet, the keel at about 70. The 85 foot *Celtic* had a telescoping wheelhouse that enabled it to pass safely under bridges on canals and rivers. This is in the up position, as it was when she went down.

What makes the *Celtic* and *Cape Race* such good wrecks is they lie on a rocky bottom. The bottom of the western sound can usually be characterized as silty and spongy. Most other wrecks in the area, and there are many, have settled deep into the muck, making large portions of them inaccessible to divers.

On two trips to the wreck site a week apart, the unpredictability of these waters became quite apparent. The first dive was made from the 31 foot *Ski Knot*, skippered by Hank Durell out of Stamford and chartered by six divers through the Westchester Dive Shop in Port Chester, New York. Durell is a frequent visitor to the *Celtic* and together with the Westchester Dive Center, an avid promoter of wreck diving in the sound. On this windless, hazy day, visibility was at best four feet. Lights were an absolute necessity despite the high overhead sun. Further hampering visibility was the hydroid, *Tubularia corcea*, a greenish growth that covers the wrecks in the sound during late fall, winter and spring, obscuring much of their detail. Once bottom temperatures reach the 60s (°F) this covering falls off.

The *Celtic* and *Cape Race* are flourishing storehouses of life. Blackfish and flounder abound. Spider and horseshoe crabs prowl the bottom and the decks of the wrecks. Lobsters can be found where

the *Celtic*'s hull meets the bottom. However, the best place for them seems to be on the nearby *Cape Race*, where a good deal of the steel scrap cargo spilled out over the bottom upon impact, affording plenty of nooks and crannies for the tasty crustaceans to hide in.

No one ventured inside the *Celtic* but inspections with lights were easy owing to the numerous hatches, portholes and windows, all of which are open.

On my second dive I was fortunate in accompanying two of the sound's most experienced wreck divers, Bruce Macklin and Rich Taracka, on Taracka's 17 foot Mako. Both men are police scuba team divers, with, respectively, the Norwalk and Greenwich, Connecticut departments. Macklin and Taracka have 200 dives on the *Celtic* between them. Macklin was the first diver on the *Celtic* and was personally responsible for a great deal of evidence that was taken into consideration by the Coast Guard Board of Inquiry. His story of that first dive in the diesel fuel-tainted, sub 40°F temperature water would send chills up the spines of the most experienced wreck divers.

After descending the buoy line, we made our way down to the deck on the port side and kicked down to the aft deck. Visibility again was poor, about three feet, leading me to wonder if stories of 20 foot visibility were products of an imaginative mind. Locating the deck hatch on the starboard side, Taracka went in followed by me, then Macklin. Normally, I don't make this kind of wreck entry. Poor visibility and a labyrinth of steel-walled rooms do not excite me—they scare me! However, since I was in the company of two divers who know the ins and outs of this ship, the breaking of one rule of thumb seemed to be in order.

The high candlepower lights were of little help in locating anything that would make for a good photo subject. With heavy hydroid growth and poor visibility, the descent down a staircase into the engine room would have been pointless and dangerous. We exited out of our entry hatch.

As we dropped down over the gunwales to the rocky bottom, our lights illuminated one long, continuous lair of lobsters, spider crabs and other small sea life. We came upon several tow lines still tied to the mooring bits, snaking out into the darkness, disappearing in the direction of the *Cape Race*. It is an eerie vision knowing you are looking at the instruments of fate for six men who sailed their last voyage on the now tomb-like *Celtic*.

If spearfishing is your intention, this is the place. Scores of large blackfish were seen between the *Celtic* and *Cape Race*.

The wheelhouse is the easiest and safest place for interior exploration, because its overhead escape hatch, doors and windows are open. Stripped of all instruments, it is still an intriguing discovery,

(Continued on Page 98)

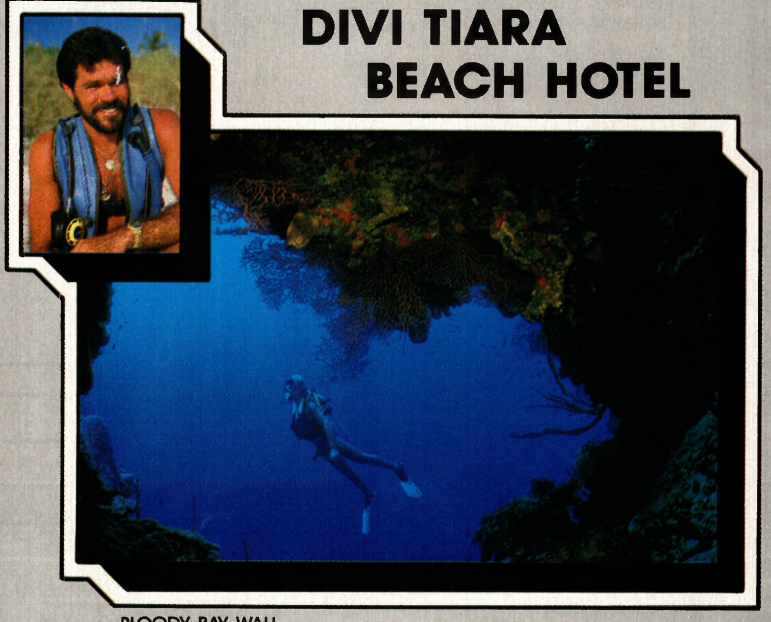
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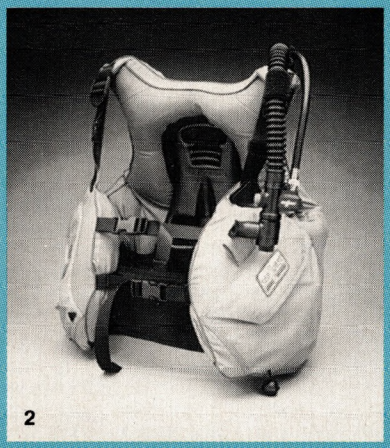


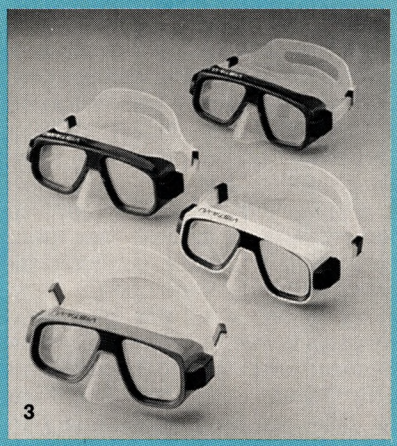
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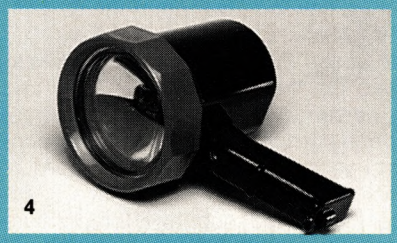
NEW FOR '87

The products listed in New for '87 are those that the editors feel are of interest to readers. All specifications and claims are supplied by the manufacturers or sellers, who bear responsibility for their accuracy. It is impossible for SKIN DIVER to obtain samples of all products listed for evaluation and verification of manufacturers' claims. The listing is provided as a free service and vendors of U/W equipment are invited to submit information and black and white photos for consideration.


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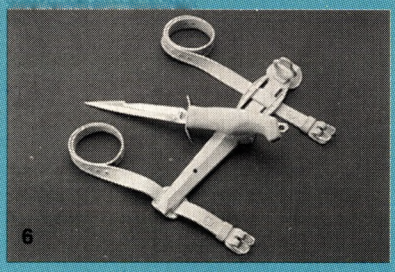
1 Three Color Wetsuits—To commemorate its 30th anniversary, Parkway has introduced the Anniversary Suit. These jacket/farmer john wetsuits come in silver/royal/black for men ($328), in pink/black for women ($338), and feature a comfortable plush lining.

2 BC Jacket—SeaQuest's ADV jacket is now available in an economy model. It has the same configuration as the regular ADV as well as padded waistband, adjustable shoulder buckles, two pockets and more. In royal and charcoal. Prices start at $286.50.

3 Prescription Masks—Vista Vu masks from Dacor are available with graphite silicone or clear silicone rubber skirts ($50) and in several colors to complement other dive gear. Prescription lenses ground to 11 different diopters are available (at $35 each) to fit the masks.

4 Underwater Light—Ikelite's Modular H-Lite has a mirror finish parabolic reflector and halogen bulb for a wide, intense beam and longer bulb life. Bulb and batteries are easily replaced. The light's sturdy, screw-on lens ring has a self-locking feature—$64.95.

5 Easy Adjust Fin—Dacor's Turboflex dive fin has a plastic heel strap buckle that can be quickly tightened or loosened with thumb pressure, yet holds the strap securely. The Turboflex's plastic blade is now available in graphite, translucent white, blue or pink—$55-$65.



6



7



8

6 Stiletto Knife—Tabata's Diver's Stiletto knife has a five inch stainless steel blade with a serrated edge and line cutter in addition to the normal sharp edge. It has a neoprene handgrip and comes with matching, strap-on sheath. It is available in black, pink, yellow or blue—$32.

7 Low Profile BCs—Dacor now offers a low profile buoyancy compensator that offers less drag underwater. With a bladderless design, it is made of 400 denier nylon pack cloth and features snap-in shoulder straps. It is available in orange or black graphite with red trim—$420.

8 Disc Photo System—Ikelite offers a complete system featuring the Ansco 350 disc camera, Ikelite Disc-Case with water correcting lens and sportsfinder, Disc Close-Up lens and framer, Substrobe S and handy carrying bag. The system's working depth is 100 feet and its retail price is $284.95.

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DIVE/CRUISE EXOTIC CAY SAL

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

WITH THE ULTRA-PLUS YACHT BOTTOM TIME II

When A.J. Bland and his partner, Ron Piccari, decided to revolutionalize live-aboard diving, a lot of thought went into the perfect boat. It had to be fast, comfortable and seaworthy for extended trips into remote areas. The many requests for more adventurous trips by repeat customers on the popular *Bottom Time I* were heeded. Thus, a new concept in live-aboard diving was born.

The ultra-plus yacht *Bottom Time II* is not like any other conventional diving live-aboard. In fact, it is the only vessel of its kind operating in the world. The *Bottom Time II* is an 80 foot, twin hulled catamaran constructed of high strength aluminum. It has a wide beam and three decks, rising more than 30 feet above the waterline. It is a marvel of stability in heavy seas. For those prone to seasickness, there is, as A.J. puts it, "no rock and no roll!"

Even engine vibration and compressor noise are minimized by a unique shock absorption system. The entire three deck superstructure sits on 48 independent isolators that prevent unwanted noise and vibration from being transmitted into the vessel's 15 large double passenger staterooms. Each of the comfortable berths is on the main deck. Five cabins feature double sized beds. A freshwater vanity, ample storage and exterior portholes maximize creature comfort. There are eight showers and four heads, all on the main deck. The watermaker can produce 3,600 gallons of fresh water a day—meaning you can shower anytime.

The second deck contains a large sundeck, the lounge and a wetbar. A color TV with VCR is available for late evening viewing or as a retreat from the scorching Bahamian sun. The complete galley is chef Paul Davis' domain. His homemade breads and gourmet style cooking rival that of some of the best restaurants. The food, friendly service by Captain Ron, first mate Roger Mayier, and BT—the vessel's guard dog and acting second captain—is half the trip. The other half of the trip is what you will experience U/W.

Our week long adventure aboard the *Bottom Time II* was shared by a friendly group of divers from Maryland. They had chartered the vessel and set a course for Cay Sal Bank. When I heard our trip was scheduled for that area, I was ecstatic. I remember reading about Cay Sal in SKIN DIVER many years ago. It hasn't been dived much in the past several years because of its remoteness and the havoc of the drug smuggling trade. However, much of that has changed and once again, Cay Sal Bank has become accessible to divers.

Only 45 miles from Cuba and 75 miles from Florida, Cay Sal belongs to the Bahamas, nearly 100 miles away. During our stay we saw no other boats, no people and no airplanes. The remnants of civilization were the remains of an old lighthouse, abandoned decades ago.



The physical aspects of the *Bottom Time II* are enhanced by her people: Ron Piccari (top), A.J. Bland (ladder), Paul Davis (left) and Roger Mayier.

The reasons for Cay Sal's beauty are somewhat magical. Not only are the banks consistently clear—with 150-200 foot visibility—but they abound in diverse marine life. The primitive, unspoiled condition of the islands and the unique, mysterious aura of the raw and untamed wilderness make Cay Sal an experience not soon to be forgotten.

The bank consists of hundreds of small islands, volcanic outcroppings and small clustered islands, inhabited by sea birds and small crabs. As barren as Cay Sal is topside, underwater it is an oasis of tropical splendor. We encountered large rays, turtles, dolphins, sailfish, sharks, eels and rainbow colored reef fish. Massive stands of corals, deep drop-offs, shipwrecks and infinitely deep blue holes provided more action than any of our thrill seekers could handle.

In 16 years of diving I have never experienced as much in one week as I did cruising Cay Sal aboard the *Bottom Time II*. And, on our return trip home across the placid Gulf Stream, a pod of six or seven pilot whales generated much enthusiasm.

One experience that still provokes thoughts of Peter Benchley's movie *Jaws*, was an encounter at the medium sized blue hole. My wife, Kathryn, and I were the first divers to reach the coral fringed indigo hole, when out of the blue, a large blacktip shark swam straight at us, veering off only a few feet away. The incident was a bit frightening. Moments later, the rest of the group appeared. Feeling somewhat sheepish, we decided to join them and descended to 100 feet. At that point we saw 15 or more blacktips. They began to buzz us like a swarm of bees. It was a mad dash with everyone for himself/herself, clambering the coral wall seeking refuge.

The latter part of the week offered opportunities of equal excitement. The waters around the old lighthouse at Elbow Cay, the deep drop-off seaward of the islands—and the coral ridges in between—are some of the most varied in the Bahamas. A chain of rocks and tiny islands about three miles northeast of Elbow is called The Lake. A short breath-hold swim takes you through an underwater tunnel that opens into an area completely surrounded by the volcanic island. This shallow, protected saltwater pool teems with millions of tropical fish. The bottom is covered with seashells strewn across a sugar-like sand floor. The Lake is a picturesque setting that is truly unique.

The *Bottom Time II*, with a cruising

(Continued on Page 92)

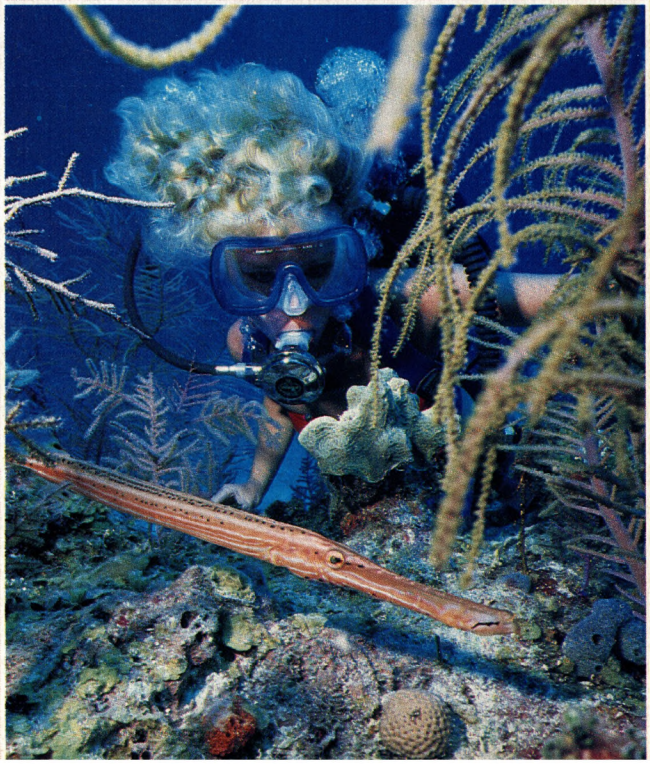








Top: The luxury dive yacht *Bottom Time II* is a twin hulled catamaran. Above: The boat's twin dive platforms. Left: Exploring the wreck of the *Panther* near Ocean Cay. Lower left: The remains of the old lighthouse on Elbow Cay. Below: Kathryn Johnston observes a trumpetfish.





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DIVER ETIQUETTE

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

NANCY G. POKORNY

Divers who choose to spend their vacations in hotels and resorts frequented by the general public often raise the hackles and blood pressure of the management. Most of you have occasionally flinched under the scornful gaze of a hotel desk clerk who eyed your dive gear as your checked into a well-kept inn. This gaze meant only one thing—the clerk had visions of soaking carpets, clogged drains and smelly fish. The situation can be remedied by the judicious use of a little common sense, some simple etiquette and a few everyday household items.

BACK DOOR PRINCIPLE

The shortest distance between two points, (i.e. the dive boat and your hotel room) is usually through the main hotel lobby. A direct course, however, is not always advisable. This is especially true when you are still wearing your wet bathing suit and dragging a heavy dive bag that belches briny water onto the carpet at every laborious step. Taking the time and energy necessary to enter the hotel through a back door is most appreciated by the manager and guests, to say nothing of the custodial staff.

G RATING

Prancing around wearing a tiny bikini may be fine in St. Tropez, but appearing semiclad in a relatively plush hotel lobby in most parts of the world brings nothing but frowns from other clientele and the management—especially the management. If you decide to brave the lobby to mail a letter, buy a newspaper or ask about restaurants that will cook the lobster you caught that afternoon, do so while wearing at least a T-shirt and flip-flops. The sign often seen in souvenir shops and cafes, "no shoes, no shirt, no service" would look incongruous in this setting, but its meaning is the same, only more so. Bare skin and hotel lobbies, like suntan oil and water, never mix.

PREWASHING

Sand, salt and smelly sea critters are the serious stuff of a hotel manager's nightmares. Therefore, it is to the diver's advantage to use some easy magic to make these problems disappear. In simple terms one should look for freshwater showers aboard the dive boat to get the worst of the dirt off more delicate pieces of equipment such as cameras and gauges. Lacking this convenience, there are frequently freshwater rinse tanks

either on the dive boat, on the dock or near the dive shop. Although neither of these measures will sterilize your gear and make it smell like a field of clover, they will certainly eliminate most of the grit, stench, kelp and other noxious substances so abhorred by the hotel management and cleaning staff.

DROP CLOTH

Deciding where to put your wet dive equipment when you return to your room is a typical problem. The bathroom is usually not large enough to accommodate the wetsuit, booties, BC and weightbelt of one, let alone two, divers. But where should this equipment be placed to dry? It had better not be on top of the teak dresser or on the hardwood floor. Your popularity at this resort will take an instantaneous nosedive unless you protect their investment. This is where a plastic dropcloth comes to the rescue. Buy a couple of simple, lightweight, inexpensive disposable plastic dropcloths like those used by house painters. This one item alone can save you more trouble and grief than you ever thought possible. Spread it out on any surface that might be damaged or destroyed and place your wet gear on it. This act of thoughtfulness will help pave the way for generations of fellow divers as they search for hassle-free lodging.

THE SANDMAN

If you have been reveling on the sandy beach, your bathtub or shower is not the place to clean the mess from either yourself or your dive gear. This will only result in a surly plumber arriving at your door in the middle of the night attempting to retrieve the part of the beach you carried off that afternoon. Other common substances that create havoc with the plumbing are seaweed, kelp, broken shells, pieces of your sunglasses and small sea creatures. If you do choose to rinse your gear more thoroughly in your room, take care to see you have washed off the worst of it someplace else.

TRASHING YOUR GEAR

Plastic has achieved a certain religious significance in the world of the diver. Not only is it used in the manufacture of many pieces of gear, but it is also the magic ingredient that allows you to keep your hotel room clean and dry. In addition to the dropcloth, two other indispensable resources are also made of plastic or other synthetic materials:

Many mesh goodie bags are large enough to haul your gear from boat to dock to room, while allowing a dunk in fresh water or a rinse in the shower along the way. The mesh allows most of the water to drain from your equipment before you reach the steps of the hotel. This lightens your load as well.

The lowly plastic trash bag is the other

(Continued on Page 98)

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BOTTOM TIME

(Continued from Page 87)

speed of 22 knots, is the fastest live-aboard vessel operating in Caribbean waters. It has a cruising range of nearly half the world and enough electronics with back-up to make Captain Kirk's *Enterprise* look like a vintage airplane. Each trip is custom tailored to the group and special requests are eyed with adventure in mind. Regularly run trips may include the outskirts of Grand Bahama Island, West End, Memory Rock, the Abacos and a friendly romp with wild dolphins, or the Berry Islands including Chub Cay, Great Whale Cay and the Bimini Islands. Other trips may include the Exumas with diving around Nassau, Eleuthera and Little San Salvador or a trip to the Tortugas and historic Fort Jefferson.

This winter, between December and March, the *Bottom Time II* will be offering its customers something quite different. Operating out of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the *Bottom Time II* will offer divers the opportunity to explore many remote areas including the BVI and St. Croix. The return leg of the odyssey will be a trip to retrace Columbus' discovery of the New World.

The entire mini-cruise ship is a well thought out design, built with the diver in mind. From the easy entry and exit into the water to the topside amenities, the *Bottom Time II* is a welcome addition to the diving industry, and certainly, the flagship of the live-aboard fleet. For more information on the *Bottom Time II* and the upcoming itinerary of out-island cruising contact A.J. Bland, Bottom Time Adventures, Inc., P.O. Box 11919, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-1919; call toll free (800) 345-DIVE, in Florida the number is (305) 561-0111.

SEA 88 COMPETITION

The Northern California chapter of the Underwater Photographic Society is hosting the 24th annual International Underwater Photographic competition. This year, thousands of dollars in cash and prizes will be given to winners. There will be more than 50 awards for slides, prints and videos entered in 15 amateur and open divisions. Award winning prints and slides will be shown and awards presented at the Sea 88 International Underwater Film Festival in Oakland, California on March 11. In addition, winners' entries will be displayed at the Seaviews 88 Underwater Symposium in Oakland, California, March 12-13.

Entries *must* be received by February 6. For rules, competition entry blank, and more information contact Greg Bassett, Competition Director, 141 Sobrante Court, Fremont, CA 94536; (415) 792-5972.

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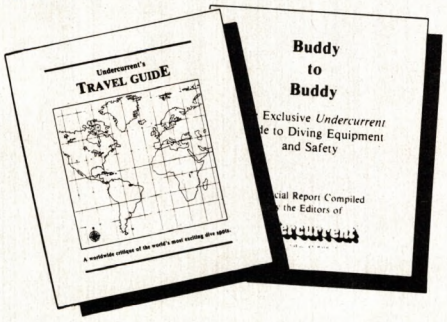
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SECRETS





This is a tale of exotic dive travel. Most divers have never heard of the Sulu Sea, much less entertained the idea of learning its secrets. Basic directions would begin with a Philippine Airlines flight to Manila, the capital of the Philippines, on the island of Luzon. The Sulu Sea lies south of Luzon; thousands of islands are washed by her tides.

Exotic dive travel is for the adventurous, those willing to try the unusual and endure the unexpected to discover dive sites few North Americans have seen. The islands this article is about are Badian and El Nido; Badian lies in the heart of the Sulu Sea and El Nido shares the waters of the Sulu and South China Seas.

Let's begin with El Nido since, although it's farther away from Manila, it's easier to reach. You'll be met at Manila's International Airport by representatives of El Nido and transferred to an Islander or Twin Otter aircraft for the next leg of your journey. About two air hours later you'll be landing off the northwest coast of Palawan, a very large island in the southern Philippines. The airstrip is mostly grass but there is a comfortable little reception house (it could by no means be confused with a terminal). There you'll be picked up for the boat ride to El Nido. No matter how tired or jet lagged you are at this point of your trip, load your cameras and do not fall asleep!

The boat arrives. It is a large bangka (outrigger) and easily accommodates all guests and luggage (which is always carried for you). Brightly colored, the bangka will chug its way for about 45 minutes to an hour to reach El Nido. The scenery is so spectacular you wouldn't care if the ride were twice as long. Tiny islands covered with lush foliage dot the sea. There are jagged cliffs and clear blue water. The islands are so numerous only the local fishermen have names for them all. And, when the bangka turns past yet another fabulous deserted island, you get your first glimpse of El Nido and one Sulu Sea secret becomes yours.

El Nido means "The Nest" and the island you face must be the Disneyland of the bird world. There are cliffs and trees, cliffs and trees, everywhere. It is the most perfect site for nesting birds I've ever seen. The Chinese and other Asian cultures use birds' nests (in fact prize them) to make a soup called, appropriately, bird's nest soup. You have stumbled on the birds' nest capital of the world. Each year, after the fledglings have flown, islanders scale these cliffs (they're so sheer it's a little hard to believe, but true), collect the nests and sell them. Next year, the birds build new ones. Everyone seems happy with this arrangement.

As the bangka draws nearer to the island, sharp eyes will pick up a beach with 24 cottages nestled at the base of the cliff. This is El Nido and this is paradise. This resort, while supplying all the comforts of the modern world, is designed to fit in completely with the natural surroundings. You do not stay at a resort that dominates its environment, you are actually part of the almost supernatural splendor that marks this very remote island.

Nonetheless, the meals and service are above standard and the Filipino staff is eager to share the secrets of El Nido. There is diving two to three times a day and you'll find your gear already set up on the dive bangka. Diving from an outrigger is a lot easier than you might think and it's fun as well. The sites range from drop-offs with sheer granite cliffs (a natural extension of the topside topography) to shallower dives with soft corals and schooling fish. This is not the dense reef of famed Tubbataha in the Sulu Sea, reached only by live-aboards. But, the abundance and diversity of the sites make El Nido a winner. Mixing its exotic locale with the unbelievable natural uniqueness of El Nido makes it the essential exotic dive travel experience.

Now, onto Badian Island. Once you have arrived in Manila, you board a plane to Lapu Lapu City, Mactan, close to the city of Cebu. This part of the Sulu Sea is called the Visayas area and, like the rest of the Philippines, it is dotted with thousands of islands. At the airport, you are picked up by a driver from Badian Island and driven the two and one-half to three hours to the resort. Well, almost. At the end of the car trip you still have a quick, five minute boat ride to the island. The drive is through rural areas and I wouldn't fall asleep for this leg of the journey. Not that you could, anyway. We're not talking superhighway, just a regular road with some irregular potholes. Colorful jeepneys—stretch Jeeps—are everywhere and you pass through a variety of local markets. At Badian Island, we are talking luxury. There are 26 rooms, done in natural hardwood and marble tile. There are exquisitely manicured grounds, staff and a restaurant to match. Service is never a problem in the Philippines; we never carried gear anywhere. Suffice it to say Ba-

(Continued on Page 100)

OF THE SULU SEA

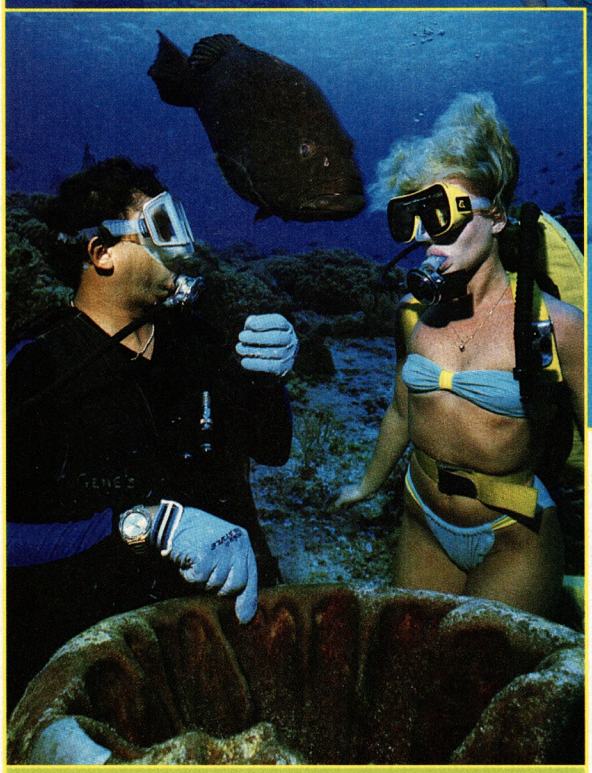
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL GLEASON





Opposite page, top: Typical Philippines scenery. Middle: The waterside cottages of El Nido Resort. Bottom: Cave of the Lionfish; soft corals are a signature of the Sulu Sea. Above: One of El Nido Resort's private airplanes. Right: Unoccupied bird nests are collected from the cliffs behind the resort to make bird's nest soup. El Nido means "The Nest" in Spanish.

BAHIA/DEL MAR



HOTEL/DIVE STORE COMBO IS A DIVER'S DELIGHT

The Bahia Hotel and Del Mar Aquatics offer Cozumel visitors a taxi-linked dive/lodging combination that's first rate. Top: Kathryn Johnston examines orange sponges at Santa Rosa Reef. Above: Dive guide Carlos Mena hand feeds a pet grouper at Santa Rosa. Right: Del Mar Aquatics' dive boat *Splash 2*. Below: The Bahia Hotel; Del Mar Aquatics' beachfront dive shop. Opposite page: A Bahia Hotel room.







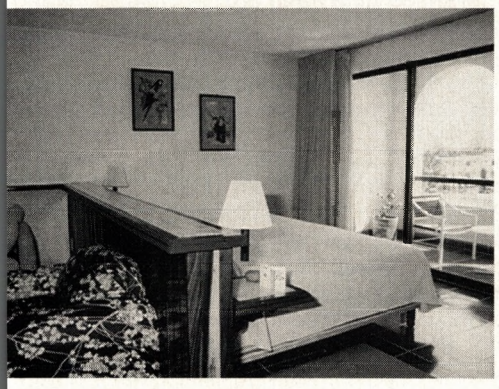
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

Something special happens each night on Cozumel. Few divers know it, most are just discovering it. It is a gathering of flippered friends where anything goes. It's Caribbean nightlife, unlike anything you may have experienced. You can dance to the pulsating beat of the latest sounds, amaze yourself to an extravaganza of laser beams, flashing neon tubes and bouncing electric lights, or relax over a casual conversation about the day's dive. The place is Scaramouche—the hottest disco south of New York and Los Angeles—and it all happens in downtown San Miguel.

Unlike most Caribbean dive destinations that offer little or no nightlife and where shopping is usually restricted to the local straw market, Cozumel has something for everyone. You can shop for unique silver jewelry, black coral, embroidered island fashions or exclusive Mexican handicrafts.

Even with the American dollar still very strong in Mexico, it is nice to know that one of the best bargain dive vacation packages can be found by checking into the Bahia Hotel. And, it's within walking distance—one short block—of some of the finest restaurants in Cozumel.

The Bahia is a pleasant surprise. It is the only luxury hotel downtown. Each of the 27 newly built rooms is fully air-conditioned, tastefully decorated and very



comfortable. There are two penthouse suites with spas and each room has a balcony view of the harbor's edge.

Each suite features an oversized king sized bed, lounging couch and a television receiving U.S. satellite broadcasts. A kitchenette in every room makes storing cold drinks and snacks convenient and, of course, that early morning get-acquainted-with-Cozumel cup of coffee can be prepared easily. At the Bahia, you are only a few minutes from all the beaches, dining, shopping, nightlife and diving.

Underwater, Cozumel is as busy and vibrant as the shopping at El Centro (town square). If you're a sponge fanatic, as I am, you will be hard pressed to find more varieties elsewhere than on the coral mountains that surround this tiny island. There are drop-offs, sheer walls and coral canyons that plummet into unknown depths. There are mid-range reefs and shallow coral gardens that are constantly flushed with a gentle current.

The unique dive packaging at the Bahia Hotel is coupled with the professional services of Del Mar Aquatics. This is a new, full service PADI professional dive facility with beachfront shop only a few minutes, by taxi, from the Bahia. Taxis are plentiful and, for about $1.50, you can go almost anywhere on the island.

The staff members at Del Mar Aquatics are seasoned professionals. General manager Daniel Ayala and his instructors and divemasters are more than happy to assist in certification checkouts, resort courses and group requests. There are individual lockers for each guest's dive equipment. These are self-draining; all week you can dive, wash your equipment in the two large freshwater tanks, then store the equipment for the next day. Body suits and wetsuits can be hung to dry and you never have to worry about your gear. In fact, you never have to carry your equipment very far from the lockers; one of the friendly dive guides will carry it the short distance down the pier to the appropriate boat. What this means is diver convenience. You can sleep a little late, enjoy breakfast, then catch a leisurely ride to the dive shop.

Del Mar's two boats are the fastest on the island. Powered by twin 225 horsepower V6 Johnson outboards, the boats are capable of speeds of nearly 50 miles per hour with a full load. The *Splash 1* and *Splash 2* are custom fiberglass, 33 foot, 20 passenger vessels with ample underseat storage, freshwater rinses and tables for cameras and personal belongings. An iced cooler is always stocked with Mexican sodas for those post dive parched palates. And, as you might expect, each boat has an experienced captain, certified divemaster and deckhand.

In the past, Cozumel dive trips used to be all day events, but this is no longer true. This is because the new boats are so fast. For example, getting to Palancar Reef used to take 75 minutes, now it takes less than 25. Two morning dives are now scheduled, as well as two afternoon dives.

Typically, all diving is done on the lee side of the island in the deep channel that separates Cozumel from the Mexican mainland. As a result, the reefs are protected from the prevailing trade winds and the sea is always a placid blue.

However, drift diving is the norm off Cozumel. At times the mild currents can sweep you across the ocean floor over a vista of spectacular coral mountains—or barely be noticed. It is always recommended that divers remain with the main body of the group but, at times, I found myself dropping into the protected canyons for a few photographs. The dive boat drifts along overhead with you and, as always, the divemaster keeps a watchful eye on all his guests.

The reef system of Cozumel is so expansive and so diverse you could literally drop overboard at any anchorage and never fully appreciate the immensity of the coral structures. When you go, some must-sees include the Caves of Palancar, an 80 foot dive with lots of sponges that reach out toward the surface from every crevice and overhang. There's Palancar Horseshoe (home of Cozumel's Christ statue) and Palancar Gardens, one of the most photogenic areas in the region. Try Tormentos, a favorite fish photography site with lots of schooling jacks and some of the largest angelfish I've ever seen.

Between dives the surface interval usually consists of a beach lunch at either Playa Escondida or Playa San Francisco. Fresh fish, chicken, beans and rice are cooked Mexican style on the beach and free to all guests. After a quick rest, it's off to your second dive.

On our second dive Carlos Mena, an 18 year veteran of Cozumel diving, joined us for a friendly romp with a pet grouper. We were diving one of the prettiest reef systems, Santa Rosa Wall, where dramatic coral mounds dominate the surrounding topography. Carlos had cut up enough chum to feed the entire crew, but this was mere hors d'oeuvre for the 70 pound grouper. Carlos would place a piece of chum on his facemask and, with a woosh, the grouper would inhale the food. Other groupers soon appeared, also looking for handouts. The action got really hot when an inquisitive spotted moray wound its way up Carlos' leg for a peak into his BC jacket to see what the commotion was all about.

A typical day on Cozumel would include breakfast at Las Palmeras restaurant, a morning dive on the great reefs of Palancar, a poolside lunch at Casa del Mar or perhaps a beach picnic. Then, it's back to the Bahia for a quick shower and happy hour at Carlos 'n Charlie's bar, where everyone meets to begin the evening. Try dinner at Pepe's Grill, then rendezvous at Scaramouche. The next day you may want to shop or tour the island. Then, catch the afternoon dive trip or just say manaña—it's up to you!

For more information on the Bahia Hotel and Del Mar Aquatics, write to Two Worlds Travel, 1307 First Street, Humble, Texas 77338 or call, toll free, (800) 446-2166. In Texas call (713) 446-2166. Good luck!

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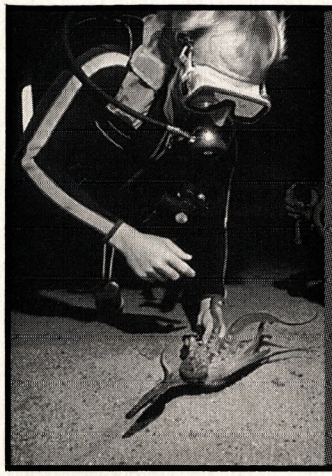
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CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

(Continued from Page 89)

wonder of the diver's world. By placing your soaking gear in such a bag you will protect any area of the resort through which you may happen to wander. In addition, this common household item can be used to transport any equipment that has stubbornly refused to dry. The journey home will be much more pleasant if you are assured your street clothes won't require a trip to the cleaners because of water spots and stains.

GETTING IT TOGETHER

Most divers, by practicing the tips outlined above, can create a more friendly alliance with the owners and managers of inns catering to nondiving clients. This will, in turn, help the entire sport diving community to more easily earn return invitations to hotels and resorts.

Just a few more words of warning. Whatever you do, for the sake of divers who follow your sandy footsteps to the doors of resorts around the world, use simple common sense. Watch for hermit crabs in your sea shells and—I cannot emphasize this point too strongly—never, ever clean fish in your room!

THE CELTIC

(Continued from Page 83)

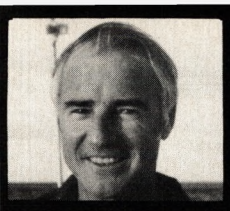
setting into motion for me a train of thought as to what happened in those few, fateful seconds on that cold November night.

After 40 minutes on the wreck we ascended along the buoy chain. On the 20 minute trip back to Norwalk, Macklin assured me there will be better days for diving in the summer months ahead when the warming waters would help the sunken tug shed its green shroud.

"I know the *Celtic* as well as anyone and I've gotten lost and disoriented on her." Adding a cautionary tone Macklin continued, "Only experienced wreck divers should attempt to enter her."

A reliable line reel, a strong light and a backup light are required equipment for those who have the necessary experience. For those who do not—bring your bug bag and your speargun and be prepared to ponder the tragic mystery of the *Celtic*—from the outside.

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The increase in demand for live-aboard diving has exceeded all projections. *Skin Diver* magazine predicts that live-aboard vacations are the fastest-growing segment of the diving industry, and that nearly sixty percent of all divers will soon have taken a live-aboard dive cruise.

So if you are dreaming of diving the Cathedral of the riches of Sombrero Island or the black frogfish of Culebra; if you yearn to dive the flanks of Tubbataha Reef; if you've heard that the Philippines has the richest and most prolific reef life in the world, call See & Sea now to reserve your trip on either *Maverick* or *Tristar*.

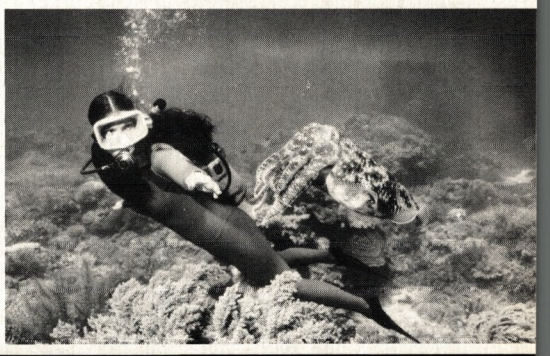
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SULU SEA

(Continued from Page 95)

dian Island is on a par with a small luxury hotel anywhere in the world, except for cost. As with everything else in the Philippines, the value received for the U.S. dollar is amazing. Diving that would cost $50 in the Caribbean is $20 here. Rooms that would be $250 to $300 are less than $80. And, the employee per visitor ratio is one of the highest we've ever seen!

Once you've checked in you get to meet Mr. Fantastic, the chief dive guide of Badian Island's International Diving Center. His real name is Bernhard Jackenkroll, but he described everything, in a slight German accent, as "fantastic." At first I figured this was just normal hype given to a visitor, but Bernhard and his partner, Andreas Veits (who is also the manager), probably now call me Mr. Fantastic as well. After several dive trips to Pescador Island, fantastic was the word I would also use to describe it.

Bernhard and Andreas, both PADI open water instructors, request that all visiting divers perform a mask clear and regulator purge before heading over the reef. At first I thought I was in for a lot of heavy German supervision, etc. But, the check was quick and efficient. At the end of my visit, I realized I had seldom dived with such accomplished divemasters.

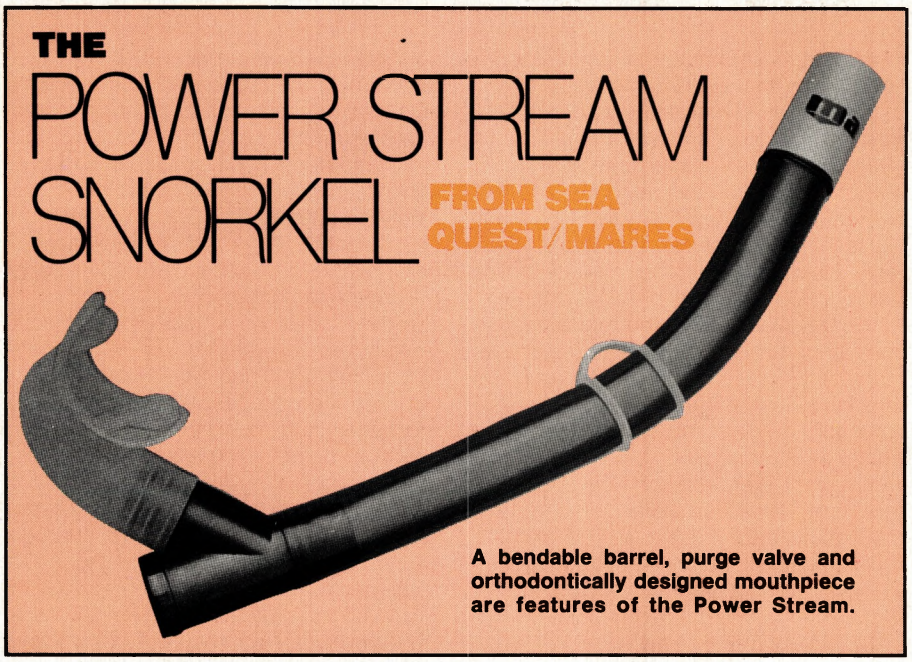
You must visit the Cave of the Lionfish. It's over the Pescador Island wall, which starts in 40 feet and drops to more than 200. It is awesome. The cave is in about 70 to 80 feet (Mr. Fantastic would say "approximately 73-74 feet"). It is small, perhaps ten feet into the wall. I counted more than 22 lionfish and there could have been more! It is a spectacular site, surrounded by one of the best walls around. There are four different diving areas around Pescador and each would require three to four dives to see it all. Bring your dive computer and you'll love the wall as well as the 20 to 40 foot deep shallow area. Everything is there at Pescador Island—walls, soft corals, hard corals, clownfish and other tropical fish.

For diversity topside, tour the villages of the area. This is a rural, subsistence fishing/agricultural type of economy and region and it is distinct and unusual. Recent tales of unrest in Manila do not affect the outlying regions we're discussing. Manila is just the airport and a stopping point to begin your journey.

For more information, contact Philippine Airlines, 447 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94108 or call (800) 554-5444 or (415) 391-0270.

DON'T SMOKE
Diving and smoking don't mix.

THE POWER STREAM SNORKEL FROM SEA QUEST/MARES



A bendable barrel, purge valve and orthodontically designed mouthpiece are features of the Power Stream.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

When I took up diving (it wasn't all *that* long ago), I had several snorkels to choose from. They all looked pretty much the same. They came in either black, black or, black. I took my instructor's advice, choosing one that: had a large bore (so I'd get plenty of air); was angled to fit around my head (so it would stick out of water when I was face down and not create drag); fit in my mouth well; and had high visibility tape around the tip (so I could be seen on the surface).

Choosing a snorkel was confusing enough 14 years ago, but today's buyer has even more decisions to make. Snorkels now come: in an rainbow of colors; with or without purge valves; with rigid or flexible barrels; and in sizes suitable for both children and adults. The tip can be any of several high visibility colors. Even the time honored snorkel keeper is available in several versions.

So, how *do* you pick the snorkel that's right for you? Well, using the criteria taught me by my instructor is still a good idea. And, the snorkel pictured in this article—the Power Stream from SeaQuest/Mares—not only meets all of them but has some additional characteristics worth considering. It has, for instance, a purge valve. This allows water to drain as the tip breaks the surface, which makes clearing the tube easier. The barrel of the snorkel is silicone; instead of being rigid, it bends. It comes in clear/blue, graphite, emerald or fuchsia. It will match or complement a variety of masks, especially those sold by SeaQuest/Mares.

The Power Stream's mouthpiece has several advantages. Of soft, translucent silicone, it is hypoallergenic. Orthodontically designed, its edges are rounded so they can't cut and it fits comfortably in the mouth, minimizing or eliminating jaw fatigue. The mouthpiece swivels so it can be turned to the position that suits you.

There is one other nice feature of the Power Stream: It has a clear silicone snorkel keeper that won't turn your translucent silicone mask strap brown.

If you're in the market for a snorkel, the Power Stream is one you should consider. It sells for $26.50. You can see it at your SeaQuest/Mares dealer.

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HALL'S DIVING CENTER

AN EDUCATIONAL DIVE RESORT IN THE HEART OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

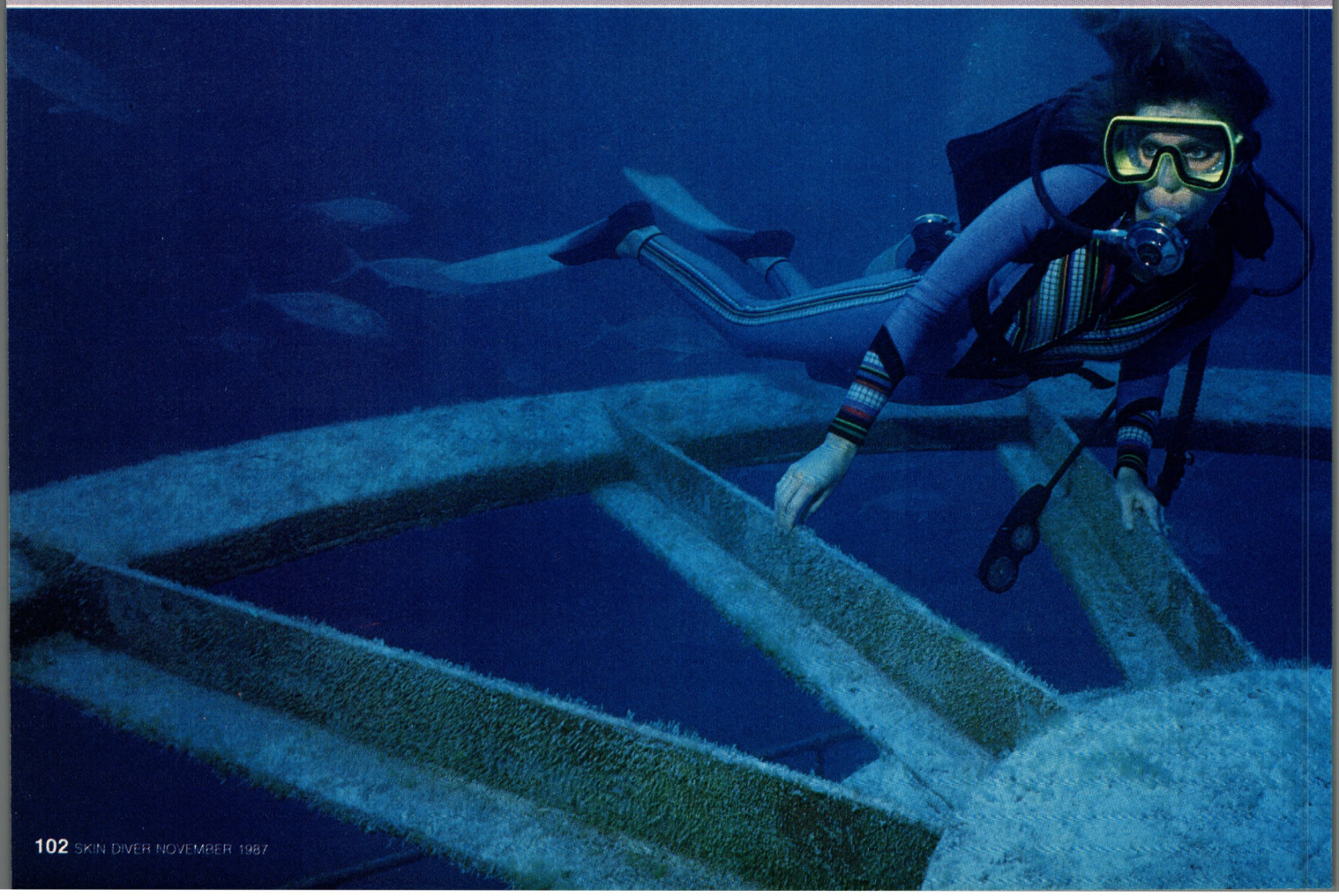
The selection of a base of operation for Hall's Diving Center and Career Institute was no accident: It was an inspired and logical choice. Marathon, Florida is in the heart of the world's most popular dive destination, the Florida Keys. Accessible by car via the concrete ribbon of highway that connects all the Florida Keys with the mainland, U.S. 1, Marathon is about 110 miles from Miami and about 50 miles from Key West. Marathon also has an airport with a 5,000 foot runway just three miles from the Hall's retail center at the Faro Blanco Resort and daily commuter flights from Miami aboard PBA increase the community's access.

There is ample good diving along the fringing reef just four to six miles offshore and a tremendous variety of fine dining, nightlife and all manner of accommodations within the resort community.

Some of the basic elements of this very positive dive scenario were in place 14 years ago when Hall's first opened in Marathon, but the city has grown and has ever more to offer the traveling diver. Hall's has likewise expanded its offerings. However, the one attraction that brought Bob Brayman to the Florida Keys in the first place is still the one attraction that brings his resort divers and students today: the quality of the coral reef and wrecks of Marathon.

Florida Keys diving is boat diving. It doesn't matter whether the dives are off Key Largo, Marathon or Key West, the reefs are four to six miles offshore and the bottom between the islands and the reef is mostly uninteresting. The *Lady Key Diver* is Hall's passport to the coral reef—it is a 40 foot, custom, deep-V hull by Ensign Boatworks. The boat is well equipped for diver convenience with tank racks down the center of the aft section; dive platform with extended ladders; marine electronics including VHF radio, Loran C and depth finder; stereo sound system; freshwater shower; and adequate safety equipment. The *Lady Key Diver* is U.S. Coast Guard certified for 30 passengers, although the boat is rarely filled to maximum capacity.

In the Florida Keys there is some controversy as to whether six pack boats (boats that are Coast Guard certified for no more than six passengers maximum) are better than multi-passenger vessels. I personally feel there is validity for both, but it is interesting to note that at Hall's there will probably only be six to ten divers on a 40 foot boat during the average week. Therefore, the space and comfort available to each diver is likely increased relative to the usually smaller six pack dive boat. During holidays and some



weekends the boat will very likely be full.

The *Lady Key Diver* is powered by a single Detroit 8-V92 diesel engine that will move her along at 17-20 knots, even with a large complement of divers and their heavy scuba tanks. This speed is important since there is a rather extensive cruising range off Marathon. Hall's itinerary includes Looe Key, a 75 minute run to the south; Sombrero Reef and Delta Shoals, just 35 minutes offshore; and the exciting wreck of the *Thunderbolt*, 50 minutes to the north. Without the speed of the *Lady Key Diver* the range of practical dive sites would be much narrower. A brief description of each of these dive areas follows:

Sombrero Reef consists of a massive spur and groove coral community in just 25 feet of water. Easily located owing to a huge steel tower, Sombrero is probably the most popular dive site in the Middle Keys. The marine life on Sombrero is one of the reef's strongest appeals, although the coral structures are also fascinating.

Delta Shoals is in 15 to 20 feet of water and occupies a slightly smaller area than Sombrero Reef. Of special note is the very scattered wreckage of the Ivory Wreck, a slave ship carrying elephant tusks run aground many years ago. Today, little that is identifiable remains of the wreck other than some pipe, but like all artificial reefs, the area seems to be a magnet for fish. Two or three other schooners have since run aground on the same spot, but they, too, have succumbed to the forces of the sea in this very shallow and exposed setting.

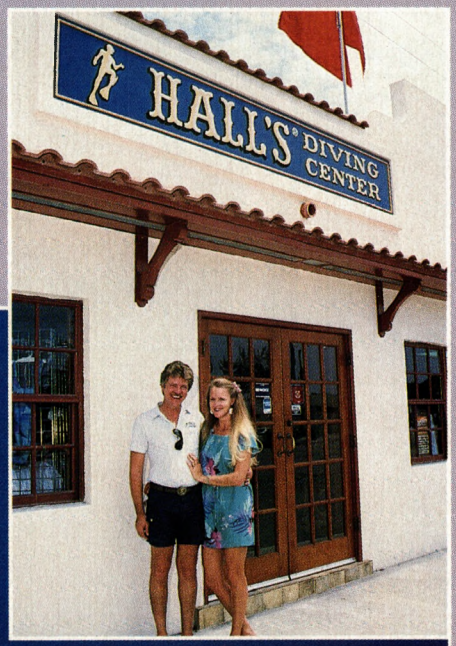
Looe Key is one of the most requested dives on the Hall's itinerary. Established as a National Marine Sanctuary, Looe Key is protected from coral collection and spearfishing and, as a result, has remained an exceptional reef tract. There is a large spur and groove formation, as well as a number of other different reef configurations, which is unusual for a relatively small area. The shallow reef is probably the most vibrantly alive and flourishing, but there is an older reef with a very steep slope (almost, but not quite, a wall) that drops from 60 to 110 feet. It is a good place to view pelagic species such as turtles and, occasionally, an eagle ray or shark. Looe Key is especially popular because it is attractive to both divers and snorkelers.

The *Thunderbolt* is one of my favorite mid-Keys dives, partially for the majesty of a perfectly upright shipwreck sitting in 115 feet of water, and partially because I appreciate the effort and struggle that goes into the financing and acquisition of a derelict ship and turning it into an artificial reef. The *Thunderbolt* was a 188 foot cable layer that was purchased and prepared for sinking by the Marathon dive community and tourist interests. She was scuttled on March 3, 1986 and now hosts a veritable umbrella of amberjacks, big groupers and hogfish, and lots of angelfish. The *Thunderbolt*, on a good day, is one of the most photogenic wrecks in the Florida Keys.

Visitors to Hall's Diving Center will find the other bits of hardware, so necessary to a successful dive vacation, in good supply. There are three 17 cfm compressors and a huge cascade air storage system. The rental scuba gear is first class and there is a choice of either 50 or 80 cubic foot aluminum tanks or 72 cubic foot steel tanks if preferred.

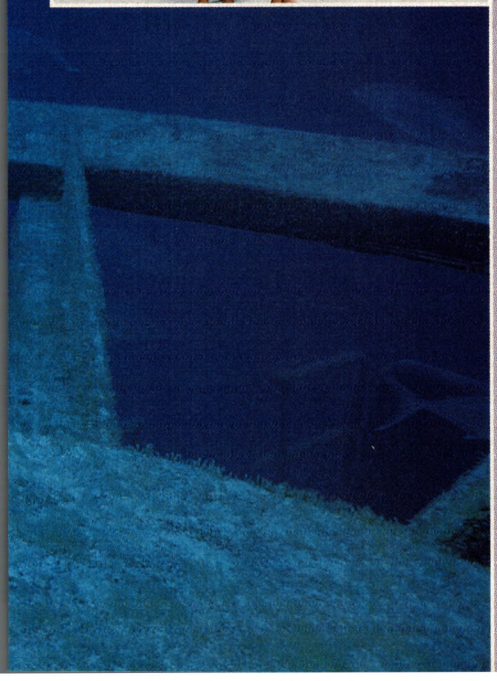
Hall's recently moved into a spacious and modern retail and classroom center at the Faro Blanco Resort. Ten years ago Paul Tzimoulis of SKIN DIVER Magazine wrote of Hall's: "by far the largest selection of equipment and accessories in the area." Hall's still offers one of the most complete selections of scuba and snor-

(Continued on Page 106)

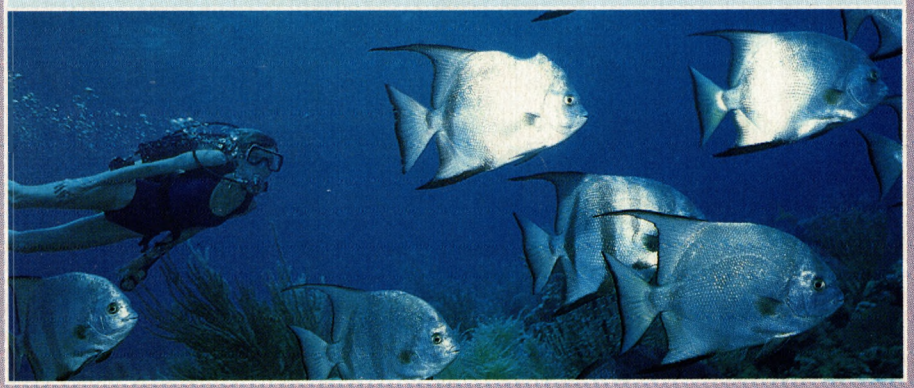








Hall's Diving Center offers a complete resort diving and instructional package from its spacious, modern facility at the Faro Blanco Resort in Marathon, Florida Keys. Left: Cable layer on the *Thunderbolt* wreck. Above left: Bob and Mary Lou Brayman. Above: *Lady Key Diver*; pool instruction. Below: Spadefish at Looe Key.





The Ornate Butterflyfish

(Chaetodon ornatissimus)

The blunt snout and bright orange body bands will easily identify the Indo-Pacific species commonly called the ornate butterflyfish. The six orange bands, together with the brilliant black and yellow head, are distinctive and the source of the scientific name *ornatissimus*. Because of its striking coloration, the ornate butterflyfish is a prize for the underwater photographer. ☐ This beautiful fish comes from deep water and is found throughout the Indo-Pacific, off Australia and in the Hawaiian Islands. Because it feeds almost exclusively on live coral, the ornate butterflyfish is apparently difficult to keep in an aquarium. Where many butterflyfishes live on a variety of reef organisms, including the tentacles of polychaete worms and zoantharians, the ornate butterflyfish feeds on coral polyps it can easily reach with its small mouth. In an aquarium, the fish is known to do well on canned brine shrimp (*Calanus*), freeze-dried brine shrimp and *Tubifex* worms, but is reportedly difficult to acclimate to the aquarium. ☐ The ornate butterflyfish (called ornate coralfish in Australia) grows to a length of from four to seven inches. The juveniles are generally recognizable as to species, many of them having a dark splotch near the tail that sometimes disappears with age. Most butterflyfishes have this tail spot, together with a dark stripe through the eye. It has been speculated that these markings serve as a natural camouflage. Predators sizing up the movement of the butterflyfish by the position of its eye may lunge for the wrong end of the fish. The sharp dorsal spines of the butterflyfish also serve as a formidable set of weapons when presented to a would-be attacker and butterflyfishes are known to wedge themselves in a crack in the reef as further protection. ☐ The butterflyfish belongs to the family Chaetodontidae, which comes from *Chaetodont*, meaning "bristle tooth." Both angelfishes and butterflyfishes have minute, brush-like teeth that filter out the reef organisms they feed on. Because of this similar characteristic, the two were long classified together in one family. Ichthyologists now separate the angelfishes into their own family, Pomacanthidae. ☐ While angelfishes are smooth swimming gliders, butterflyfishes tend to flit about like their terrestrial namesakes, darting here and there as they poke about the reefs for food. They often swim in pairs and it is believed that the pairs remain together for life. It is not uncommon to see one butterflyfish swimming forward, with another hurrying to catch up, as if the two were tied together with a string.

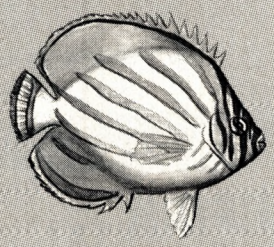
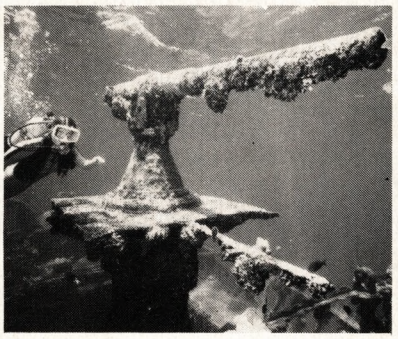
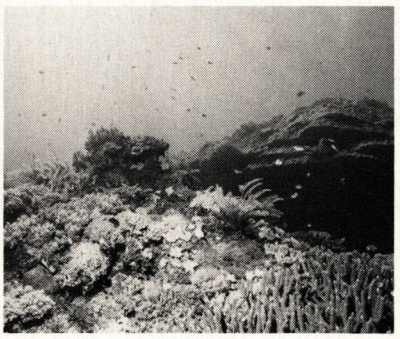


Photo By Carl Roessler-Text By Hillary Hauser

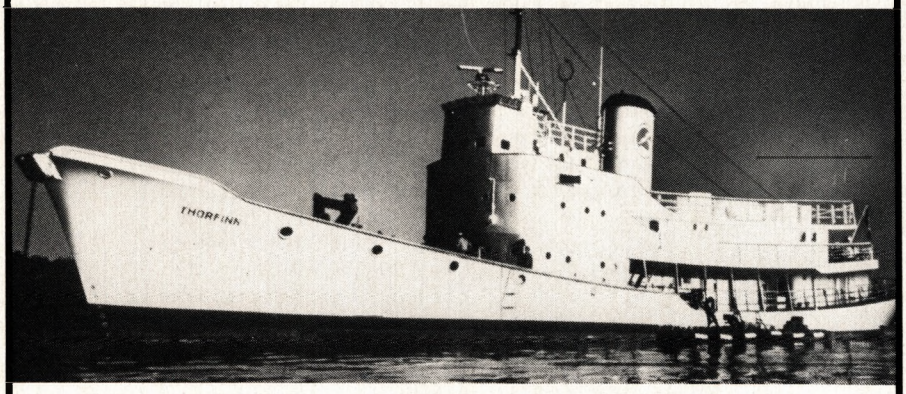
Carl Roessler took the photo in 60 feet of water off Apo Island in the Philippines. He used a Nikon F camera with a 55mm macro lens in a Niko-Mar housing and a Bauer E252 strobe. Kodachrome 64 shot at f/11.

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HALL'S DIVING CENTER

(Continued from Page 103)

keling gear in the Keys, as well as a tasteful collection of T-shirts, post cards, bathing suits, sportswear and spearguns. In addition to the main facility at Mile Marker 48, there is a branch retail center at Mile Marker 50 with much of the same sort of merchandise, although not necessarily in the same profusion.

Dive/lodging packages are available at the Faro Blanco, which is especially convenient since it is so close to Hall's retail center and the boat docks. The other amenities of the Faro Blanco Resort, such as the gourmet restaurant, Olympic size freshwater swimming pool, scenic marina and lighthouse, are equally attractive. However, Hall's is able to book dive/lodging packages with at least six other resorts in Marathon, thereby offering its customers the widest range of accommodations from economy to deluxe condominiums on the beach, all at significant savings. A telephone call to the Hall's toll free reservation desk should provide an answer to any diving or accommodations concern.

The instruction programs at Hall's Diving Center and Career Institute range from entry level scuba (courses may be started anytime) through instructor development. The open water scuba course is basically a five day course, certified by either NAUI or PADI, and the assumption is that when a student passes, he/she will not only have satisfied the requirements of the course but will be secure and comfortable as an open water diver.

Instruction has always been a major part of the Hall's concept. Bob Brayman has been teaching scuba courses for 24 years and the Career Institute evolved from his long experience as an instructor.

The Career Institute is actually a vocational school licensed by the State of Florida and has been in operation for eight years. The basic goal of the curriculum is to expose the instructor candidates to the real thing—actually immerse them in a resort dive scenario so they are qualified to succeed in their career. This is accomplished via a two pronged approach: First they teach the candidates, then they allow the candidates to teach others under the supervision of the instructor trainer.

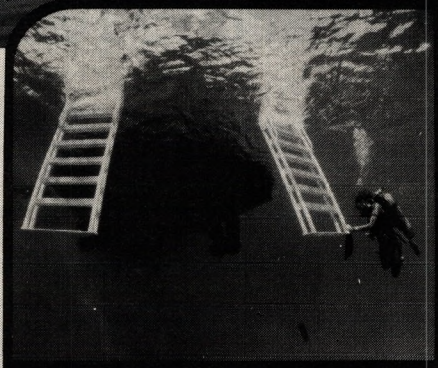
This is truly an apprenticeship format to provide training and actual experience within an eight week program. The idea is to fill the personnel needs of a profitable dive store, school or resort with qualified, quickly employable graduates. The course is very pragmatic in its approach to sound business management, as well as emphasizing diver instruction

(Continued on Page 114)

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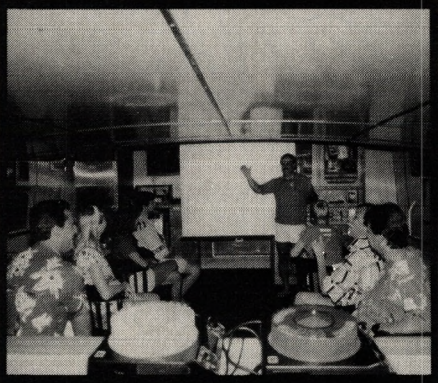
Dive ladders



Sun deck



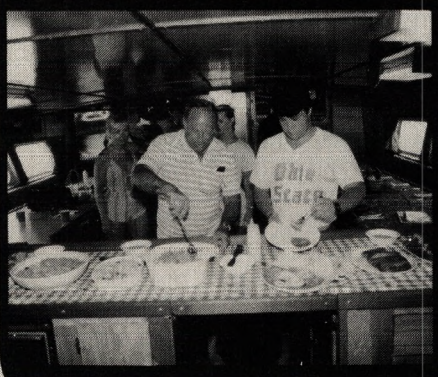
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EAST END DIVING GRAND CAYMAN SAFARI STYLE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK FREHSEE









Top: An anchor near the *Ridgefield* wreck. Clockwise from above: The Cayman Diving Lodge; Ron and Kathie Kipp on the East End Wall; silversides at Ironshore Gardens; the *Ridgefield* protrudes above the water's surface.

What began as an adventure for divemasters has evolved into an exciting advanced program for guests in search of Cayman wilderness diving. Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., the popular, multi-faceted operation with centers along Grand Cayman's western shore, has fashioned an East End dive experience.

Beyond George Town and Seven Mile Beach and 35 minutes down the south coast road is Bob Soto's East End dive center, the Cayman Diving Lodge. It is the gateway to exotic, uncrowded diving; the opportunity to see Grand Cayman the way it used to be.

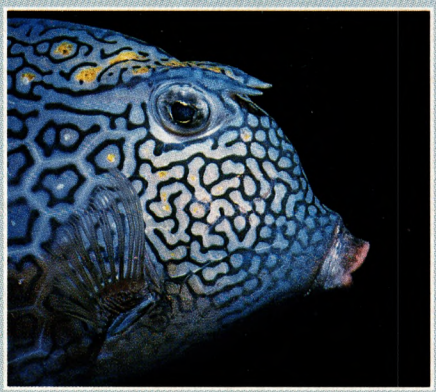
This advanced dive activity allows for small, intimate groups and custom experiences along the miles of nearly unexplored reefs off the southeast, east and northeast sides of Grand Cayman. Seldom is there another boat in sight and divers will have some of the most adventurous wall diving in the Caribbean.

(Continued on Page 122)

LA STREGA

BEWITCHING LIVE-ABOARD IN BELIZE









Top: Encounters with large marine animals such as this manta ray are possible on the dramatic reefs and walls off Belize. Above right: A honeycombed cowfish. Above: *La Strega* cruises the waters off Belize, carrying divers to the best sites. Right: *La Strega*'s main saloon. Far right: Hugh Parkey.

Tucked away on the western side of the Caribbean, just below Mexico, lies Belize. And, along its coast runs one of the longest barrier reefs in the world. Several miles beyond this barrier reef rise three isolated, coral encrusted banks known as Glover's, Turneffe and Lighthouse reefs. Only a few operations, such as the live-aboard diving vessel M/Y *La Strega*, routinely tour these spectacular reefs, dramatic walls and tranquil islands. It seems appropriate that the name of this motor yacht, when translated from Italian, means "witch;" by the end of your stay, you, too, will fall under the pleasant spell created by *La Strega*, her crew and the reefs of Belize.

Although Belize may appear to be a little off the beaten path, it is very easy to get to. Carriers such as Taca International Airlines regularly fly directly into Belize City from Houston, New Orleans and Miami. Its 737 and 767 jet crews are used to handling divers' luggage and will help photographers locate extra overhead storage for their camera gear. As you exit Belize customs, a *La Strega* crew member will be waiting for you. Not only does the trip include transfers to and from the airport, but *La Strega*'s crew will reconfirm your return flight with Taca for you.

La Strega has classic lines. Originally launched as a private luxury yacht in 1953, she demonstrated that her 86 foot North Seas Trawler design could comfortably carry her passengers in rough seas during 27 Atlantic Ocean crossings. Because of her nine foot draft, she rolls very little. Enormous twin diesels drive her and two generators provide 110 volt/60 cycle electricity (bring your hair dryers and rechargeable strobes).

All the cabins are fully carpeted and air-conditioned. Since *La Strega* has five full heads, there is rarely a wait for a shower, even with a full complement of 14 passengers. The 350 gallon per day watermaker continuously tops off the 1,600 gallon freshwater tanks. The main saloon has an AM/FM stereo radio and cassette player. Those of you who are into quieter pastimes should enjoy browsing through the ship's library. In the evenings, guests view movies or watch replays of that day's diving on the ship's TV and VCR.

The compactly housed Sony video camera rental includes, besides enough tape for a full day of diving, the editing and assembling of your raw footage by the home office to create a completed presentation at no extra charge! *La Strega* rents Edge diving computers too; the program includes batteries and personal instruction. It is a great way to maximize your dive time on the Belize reefs.

As part of the ongoing remodeling and upgrading of the vessel, the upper sun deck is acquiring a new look: As this article goes to press a custom designed contoured bench, built-in equipment lockers and all weather carpeting are being installed. The aft main deck acts as the staging area and general gathering place. Tanks and BCs rim the stern. In addition to helping guests with their dive gear and handing down cameras at the beginning of a dive, the crew also hauls your gear aboard and places your video or photo rigs in the large freshwater rinse bucket; it is nice to let someone else do all the work. Near the rinse bucket stands a handy air gun for blowing water off your cameras, strobes and housings.

Between dives, guests often sit around the large shaded camera table to swap notes and tell tall tales about previous dives. People usually collect here before dining. With the exception of breakfasts, meals are served buffet style. You wake up to the smell of fresh coffee brewing. As people begin to gather on the main deck, Dorla, the stewardess, takes breakfast orders. In the galley, Thelma prepares familiar American cuisine with an island flavor. How about starting your day with banana pancakes, bacon or waffles and sausage or perhaps a cheese omelette with homemade muffins or biscuits? For lunch they may tempt you with barbecued chicken, spaghetti or cheeseburgers. There is always a bowl of fresh fruit available. It's OK—go ahead and enjoy the food—you can always burn it off during the next dive. By the way, after the late afternoon dive, Thelma puts out a snack tray. Snacks may include conch fritters, vegetables and dip or spicy meatballs. You have just enough time to make another dive before you shower and clean up for dinner. The evening main courses range from seafood selections such as grouper, lobster tail or shrimp to homemade chili or steak. Salads and fruit accompany the lunch and dinner entrées. As you sample the fresh lime pie or banana parfait, just think about all the calories you can burn up on a night dive!

Like many live-aboards, the success of *La Strega* really belongs to the crew. Captain Burley Garbutt has been working the waters of Belize for more than 15 years. He can pinpoint the best spots for diving, fishing or quiet anchorages. Hugh Parkey is the host and divemaster for *La Strega*. A native Californian and a veteran of almost 20 years in the diving business, Hugh uses his experience, "to treat divers the way that I would like to be treated on vacation." To help make the transition to your holiday easier, Hugh puts everyone on *La Strega* time; it's his version of Daylight Savings Time and it means that divers get the most out of the sunlight hours. Along with Teresa Trail, the attractive co-host from Texas, Hugh makes life aboard *La Strega* a pleasure. The two go out of their way to help the guests enjoy their stay.

Between dives Hugh may take the passengers hydro-sliding. He's been known to give visitors his own camera if theirs stops working. Want a tip on where to look for silversides, horse-eye jacks or eagle rays? Ask Hugh. If you are an experienced diver you will be glad to know that Hugh sees nothing wrong with diving all day from dawn until 11:00 pm. Such individuals appreciate that their buddy teams can roam the sheer walls and reefs on their own schedule. Novice divers value Hugh and Teresa's guidance and advice. While many individuals view Belize as a destination for the seasoned diver, the marvelous shallow reefs (15-45 feet deep) are perfect check-out dives.

La Strega welcomes both divers who follow the U.S. Navy tables and those



Taca flies jets into Belize City from Houston, New Orleans and Miami. Its crews are used to handling diver's luggage and help photographers find overhead storage for cameras.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK M. LAWRENCE

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LA STREGA

who use dive computers. Since the majority of walls start at 30 or 35 feet, both groups can rack up a lot of time on the drop-offs. Your maximum depth, time in and time out are faithfully recorded on the ship's dive log. On the author's voyage, the divers definitely benefitted from being able to stay down longer by diving shallower. On one occasion, the last divers in the water watched a manta ray with an eight foot wingspan perform barrel rolls and, on another occasion, they were visited by Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

La Strega offers four basic itineraries (charter the whole boat and you can write your program!). You can cruise down the Barrier Reef to South Water Caye and cross to Glover's Reef. Snorkelers and beachcombers enjoy running down the inside of the barrier reef from Narguana Caye to the tiny fishing village of Placentia. Many guests return to take the Grand Seafari, a ten day trip that samples some of the best diving in Belize and the Bay Islands of Honduras. The most requested tour starts on Turneffe Reef and spends the remainder of the week diving Lighthouse Reef and the famous Blue Hole.

Diving days aboard *La Strega* begin after the guests have finished eating breakfast and the ship moves to a new site. Visitors often descend down the wall in the morning, explore the reef top to the north after lunch and investigate the reef to the south around snack time. Without retracing your steps, you become familiar enough with the area to enjoy a night dive. *La Strega* may anchor at a given location for just a couple of dives or it may stay for the whole day. The decision to move is usually up to the guests.

There are numerous areas that one could spend several days exploring and still not become bored: for example, The Cathedrals at Long Caye. Here, silversides often school in massive numbers in the caves and crevices that dissect the top of the wall. Large yellow tube sponges stand on the reef top and hang off the wall. Search the small undercuts for the bizarre splendid coral toadfish.

Just down the reefline is The Zoo. Keep watching the midwater for schooling jacks, permit and squadrons of eagle rays. Along the wall, there are huge colonies of deepwater gorgonians.

The alternating giant coral fingers and wide sandy valleys at Southwest Cut on Long Key provide a great setting to scout for wandering groupers or sleeping southern stingrays.

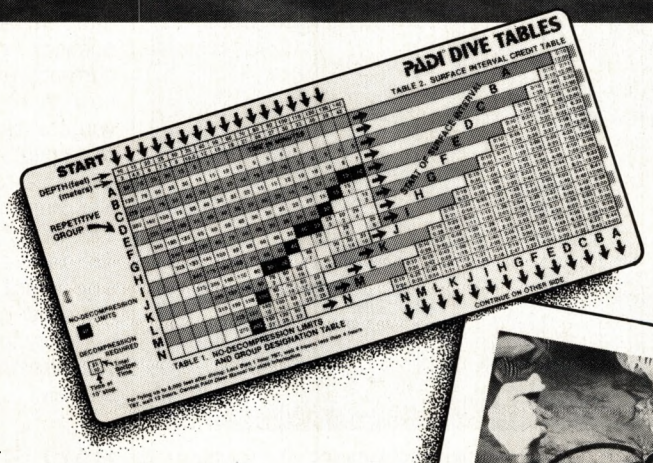
On the sand flats that lead down to the coral ridge capping the wall at Half Moon Caye Caves, careful observation reveals razorfish in the turtle grass and fields of garden eels. Exceptionally fat groupers mill under the boat. Here, the wall drops



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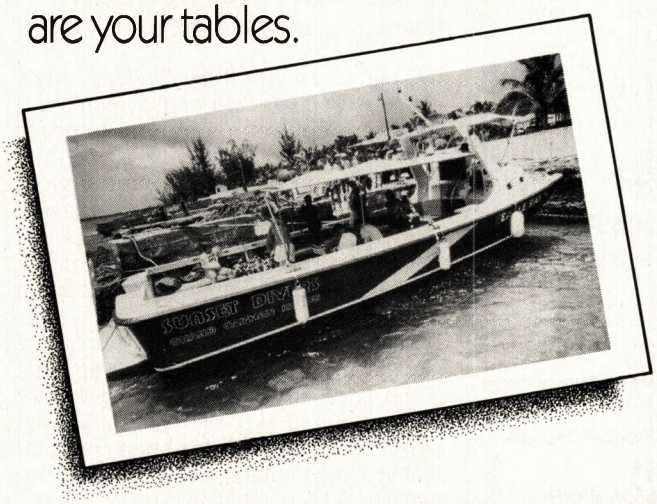
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almost vertically into the deep. Colorful sponges and fish decorate the winding coral tunnels and narrow divides. If you are lucky you may see large tarpon hovering in the darker shadows. If not, don't worry, they almost always swim under the bright light that *La Strega* suspends over the water for each night dive.

Lighthouse Reef's *Blue Hole* is a unique dive; visitors can swim around giant stalactites and columns. Belize diving is highly varied.

By writing *La Strega* at 913 Harborview Park, 4572 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003 or calling (800) 433-3483 or (805) 654-8100, you can complete your booking, including reservations on Taca International Airlines. They can also field questions pertaining to such things as the currency exchange rate, what to wear or how much to tip. During the same call you can reserve an Edge, video camera or inquire about the unusual land tours available to the Maya ruins of Altun Ha and Xunantunich or the 1,000 foot Hidden Valley Falls. Whether you want to log five dives per day or forget about the outside world for five days, *La Strega* and her crew give you the freedom and opportunity to spend your week doing what you like to do at the pace you like to set.

HALL'S DIVING CENTER

(Continued from Page 106)

and equipment sales and service. While Hall's can't guarantee employment as a result of its course, it does have a perfect record of placing its graduates.

The course may be taken as eight weeks in residence, working five days a week, eight hours a day; or a home study course may precede the resident work to simplify and abbreviate the time spent at the institute.

Within the space of this article I can only briefly introduce the unique parameters of the NAUI International Diving Career Institute offered by Hall's. For those who might wish a career in the sport diving industry, I recommend a call or letter requesting a comprehensive brochure.

For further information regarding either the resort dive programs, scuba instruction or the diving career development programs at Hall's Diving Center and Career Institute, call toll free (800) 331-4255 or, in Florida, (305) 743-5929. Mail inquiries may be addressed to 1994 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida Keys 33050.

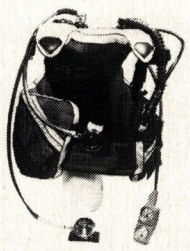
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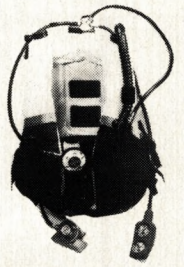
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Diving research and DAN activities are shown at DAN's headquarters at the F.G. Hall Hyperbaric Laboratory, the largest civilian hyperbaric laboratory in the U.S. Issues concerning the safe future of diving are also discussed by DAN leaders.



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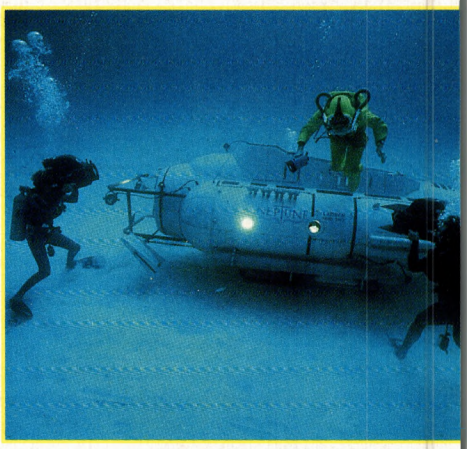


Top and above: The *Black Coral*. Right: Stacy Albinder with a small tiger shark. This is an out-take from a commercial. Below: Lyford Cay Wall. Below right: A scene from *Never Say Never Again*; *For Your Eyes Only*.









photos/courtesy Stuart Cove

A DIVE AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST PHOTOGRAPHED REEFS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK FREHSEE

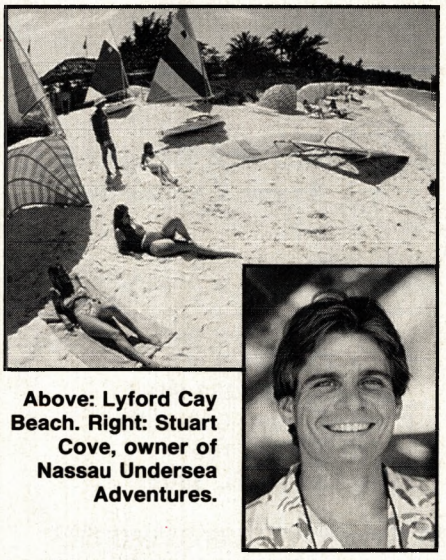
For most experienced divers, Nassau is a question mark; although it's the tourism center of the Bahamas it is nevertheless without an image of spectacular diving. And yet Nassau, particularly the west end of the island, has been the worldwide center of subsea motion picture production since the beginning of underwater cinematography. The first underwater film spectacular, the historic silent version of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, was filmed in Nassau waters in the late 1920s. By the time Disney Studios produced its Technicolor remake of the Jules Verne classic in the 1950s, Nassau was well established as an underwater studio. Throughout the 1960s and '70s nearly all the James Bond U/W scenes, including those for *Thunderball*, *For Your Eyes Only* and *Never Say Never Again* were shot in Nassau waters. Recently, many TV dramas and motion pictures such as *Splash*, *Wet Gold*, *Cocoon* and the new *Jaws: The Revenge* were filmed on location in Nassau.

Logistical support for much of this recent motion picture activity was provided by Nassau Undersea Adventures, also a full-service recreational dive operation. At the prestigious Lyford Cay Club (visitors include Sinatra, Onassis, Redford, etc.) Nassau Undersea Adventures, formerly Coral Harbour Divers, provides complete diver support, including daily trips to the nearby reefs and wrecks. Owner Stuart Cove is a young man with a mission and a message about Nassau diving. "There are endless miles of spectacular wilderness diving here; some of which is appreciated by the Hollywood studios," he asserts. "Now our goal is to introduce Nassau to recreational divers."

Born and raised in Nassau, educated in Canada and informally schooled in the undersea studio by such cinematographers/directors as Jordan Klein, Al Giddings and Jack McKenney, Stuart Cove has developed into a logistical advisor for filmmakers and photographers. In the past year, I completed four assignments in Nassau with Cove's assistance: a poster project, a Bahamas tourism shoot, a hotel campaign and an ad for a Canadian whiskey—all expertly coordinated. Cove is a certified PADI scuba instructor and a licensed boat captain who spends the majority of his time "on location" at Nassau Undersea Adventures.

The image of Nassau diving is obscure because most people have a different picture of Nassau. The capital and largest city of the Bahamas (population 150,000) is well known for classy hotels, horse drawn carriages, old forts, straw markets and cruise ships. There is also Paradise Island, the center of glitter in the Bahamas. Each year thousands of tourists cross the bridge from Nassau to Paradise Island, moving into a playland of casinos, nightclubs and floor shows. Naturally, most of these general visitors view snorkeling and scuba diving as an ancillary offering, kind of a "let's try it" activity. As a result, operators responded with quickie reef trips and discovery dive programs. True *aficionados* of the sport might well have been put off by short, well worn jaunts to mediocre dive sites offered by the day-trippers.

Nassau is now entering into the major scuba arena and several good operators are currently offering reef and wreck excursions of considerable quality and diversity. Drive west from the city along the north coastal road and a different kind of Nassau unfolds. The hotels and casinos of Paradise Island and Cable Beach are replaced by spacious rural surroundings.



Above: Lyford Cay Beach. Right: Stuart Cove, owner of Nassau Undersea Adventures.

The palm and pine lined highway weaves its way over green hills bordered by creamy white beaches and emerald waters. Thirty minutes later, nearly at the west end of the island, there is a stretch of idyllic flower decorated private homes and villas. Just where the road turns south is the entrance to Lyford Cay. The Lyford Cay Club is a membership only community of private estates, complete with marina, shopping center, school and hospital. Five minutes inside the entrance gate you are at Nassau Undersea Adventures, an attractive pink and white building on a waterway. When Stuart Cove is not taking Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier or Sean Connery diving, he is taking you and me.

Don't think this means you will be confronted by a stuffy group of prima donnas used to entertaining movie stars. Far from it. Stuart Cove and his group of merry men (and women) are as down to earth as they come. The divemasters are easy to get to know and fun to be with; they are well known for spontaneous cocktail parties that begin at dockside and on weekends are apt to move into town until the late hours.

How good is Nassau diving? The dive sites available from the west end of the island (it is actually New Providence Island, the city is Nassau) are excellent; there are good shallow sites, miles of walls and drop-offs, good marine life and normally excellent visibility. A distinction is an assortment of interesting underwater movie props from *Thunderball*'s H-bomb carrying Vulcan bomber, to the *Never Say Never Again* shipwreck, to Michael Caine's *Jaws: The Revenge* light aircraft. The James Bond Shipwreck is probably the best of the movie sites. The 100 foot island freighter was the setting for the tiger shark scene in Sean Connery's last Bond film. It sits upright on a sandy bottom 40 feet deep, just inside the main reef, looking like (pardon me) a movie set. Normally bathed in gin-clear water, the wreck invites both exterior and interior exploration. Starting with the outside, good wreck photos with divers can be staged by the bow for that dramatic complete shipwreck effect. Wonderful photos can also be taken inside with divers outside peering through windows lining the wheelhouse. Once inside, divers can move below decks to the engine room. I am told a six foot green moray eel lives underneath a main engine, however, we did not find him at home. Below decks is usually calm and there is a minimum of silt, allowing a good selection of photos to be taken inside.

Within a short swimming distance of the Bond wreck lies the remains of the *Thunderball* Vulcan bomber aircraft. Today, it doesn't look much like an airplane at all; what is left is the structure that supported the body and wings. Its visual importance is highly individual; some divers see it as a kind of underwater erector set while others view the adornment of sponges, fans and seawhips as breathtakingly beautiful.

Perhaps even more dramatic than the Bond wreck is the incredible Wreck on the Wall. This small 50 foot fishing trawler was sunk by Nassau Undersea Adventures as a diver attraction. With miracu-

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NASSAU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

lous luck and a little help from a winter storm, she now sits perched on the edge of the wall at 60 feet; the bow section hangs off the coral edge. From above, one peers over the bow rail to the dizzy, infinite depths of the Tongue of the Ocean below. As with the Bond wreck, divers can swim inside to photograph. In the same area, general wall scenery is good with vertical escarpments and overhangs decorated with colorful rope sponges and deepwater fans.

An aerial view reveals the contours of the west New Providence reef system. Along the north side of the island there is a mile wide shelf of shallow sandy bottom and patchy corals that leads rather abruptly to finger reefs and, at 80-90 feet, the vertical drop-off. Miles of drop-off dive sites can be considered, including the Lyford Cay Wall with good straight descents lined with sponges, black corals and wide fans. On the west end, the reef curves with the island and shelves out even farther to include a couple of low scrub islands. One in particular, Goulding's Cay, is a landmark diving area for shallow coral gardens. Here, in less than 30 feet of water, are magnificent stands of golden elkhorn coral, emerald and purple seafans and well formed head corals. Outside the reefline is the abrupt drop to the Tongue of the Ocean.

Snorkeling and shallow scuba on repetitive dives is done in a variety of locations, usually in excellent visibility. Besides Goulding's Cay, there are numerous patch reefs and coral heads scattered across the sandy bank inside the main reef system on both the west and south sides of the island. These miniature ecosystems are lush and busy with the movements of hundreds of small reef and baitfish that hover around the heads like bees around beehives. Shallow grooves in the coral are good hideouts for small morays and shy yellow coneys.

It is the southwest side of New Providence that offers the greatest area of wilderness diving. The outer reefs trail south and away from Nassau, angling toward the Exuma Islands. From here all the way to the Exumas are miles of virtually unexplored fish filled coral labyrinths. How far you go is determined by whether you've taken lunch aboard or not. Fantastic drop-off and reef slope diving are available just 30-40 minutes from the Nassau Undersea Adventures' dock. Stuart Cove does have a special, all day trip, limited to six divers, to the Exumas.

The west end geography allows not only for a variety of sites, but the assurance that a lee can be found during short periods of heavy wind, usually from the north or west.

A personal favorite dive site is a large sandy area called Runway. Thirty-five minutes out on the southside and just inside the main reef, the "runway" is flat and mostly sandy. The "aircraft" that periodically land and take off are huge southern stingrays, the largest of which sport an eight foot wingspread. I have counted as many as eight giant rays at a time lying on the bottom nearly buried under white sand. They are not used to divers and must be approached with caution or they will "take off" in a huge contrail of flowing sugar-sand. With patience, these prehistoric looking creatures can be approached and eventually petted or gently stroked.

Nassau's scenic west coast is punctuated with beaches and limestone bluffs. Along the southwest is a series of craggy cliffs, coves and caverns ideal for snorkeling and topside photography. A pretty stretch of creamy white beach is found at Shark Point. Even more spectacular signature Bahamas beaches can be found northside at Lyford Cay Beach and at deserted old Fort Beach, another popular movie location.

Nassau Undersea Adventures main boat is the *Black Coral*, a 44 foot twin diesel custom craft with a flat deck and high tower. Secondary boats are a 30 foot single diesel, a 25 foot twin outboard and a 20 foot single outboard. A 65 foot steel-hulled vessel is being refurbished to handle large groups, sunset cruises and snorkeling tours. All boats are well equipped for divers and their gear.

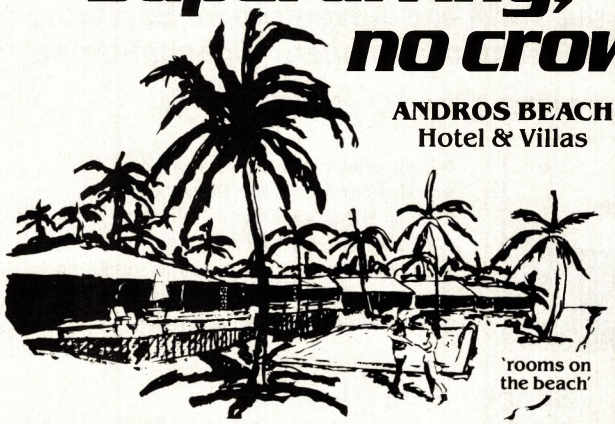
The headquarters building contains the check-in counter, retail desk, offices, bathrooms, lounge and repair room. Racks of movie theme T-shirts are popular items. One wall is decorated with prints from movie locations including pictures of staff members posing with Brooke Shields, Burgess Meredith and other stars. Outside in small shacks are scuba tanks, storage bins for personal gear, more rental gear and compressors. Even if there is a motion picture production underway, full service is maintained for visiting divers. Movie sets are usually closed to the public, but it is fun watching the frenetic activity even at a distance.

Complete packages are available with established downtown or Cable Beach hotels or, if you wish to be closer to the west end of the island, there are a number of very scenic villas to consider. My favorite place to stay is at Orange Hill Villas, a pleasant family operation on a hill overlooking the north coast road and beach. Nassau Undersea Adventures maintains a courtesy bus that will pick you up and take you back to your hotel after diving. I should also mention the Traveler's Rest, a rustic little English pub that serves as our watering hole for happy hour on the short excursion from Lyford Cay back to the villas. Folks who want to go into Nassau for shopping or

(Continued on Page 125)

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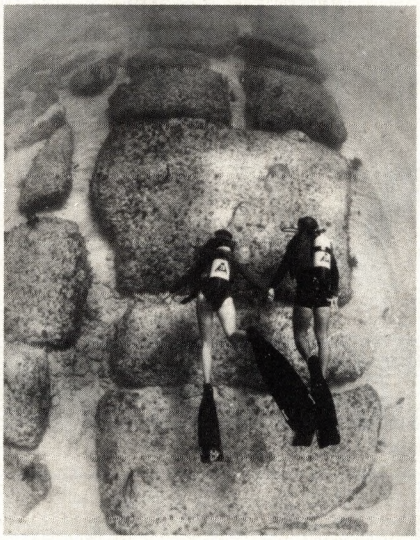
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EAST END

(Continued from Page 109)

Soto's East End Safari, offered three times a week, includes round trip transportation by van from Seven Mile Beach to the Cayman Diving Lodge. Guests are picked up promptly at 9:00 am and 45 minutes later arrive at the docks to board a custom dive boat. The drive from West Bay to East End is a lovely transition; from the developed side of Grand Cayman to the undeveloped, from town to country, from mostly inhabited to mostly wilderness. The pleasant sightseeing includes quaint white, pink or coral cottages with gingerbread trim, captivating mangrove-lined Rainbow Lake, and extensive ironshore butted against a turquoise sea. Just beyond the famed blowholes lies the Cayman Diving Lodge, bordered by beach and sea. The lodge, currently open to Soto's day visitors only, was purchased in November 1984 by Ron Kipp to satisfy divers looking for totally unique dive experiences.

Grand Cayman is one of the best examples of a true divers' island. Its flat topography hides the fact that it is the tip of an underwater mountain surrounded on all sides by fringing reef and almost continuous coral formations. Experts on Cayman diving love to compare sides of the island and argue which is best. It's a subjective conclusion; actually there is truly great diving in all quadrants.

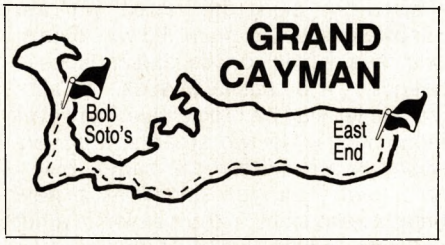
The west shore has the stalwart and legendary dive sites. The north coast has many of the most majestic wall sites. The south coast is very impressive. The east coast is perhaps the most unusual, the least known and contains dozens, perhaps hundreds, of shipwrecks. The area is, without the Cayman Diving Lodge, almost inaccessible, at least from the shore. And, what is the least explored is usually the most intriguing.

The whole area is a fantastic potential playground for visiting divers. Unlike other quadrants, the East End reef is a giant horseshoe-shaped formation extending well offshore. Inside the main reef is a large area of shallows and flats punctuated with patch reefs, head corals and an occasional shipwreck.

The East End flat is second only to North Sound as a juvenile marine nursery. However, the water is generally clearer, with less grass and more coral on the bottom. Many of these patches are perfect, nearly self-contained ecosystems of amazing complexity with golden head corals, flowing seawhips and hordes of colorful tropical fish. Protected from wind waves by the outer fringing/barrier reef, these patches achieve great diversity and vitality. There is one site with a few cannons from an unknown galleon half buried next to the reef face. On

the southeast side of the horseshoe are two cuts, one barely navigable, leading to the outer reef wall. There is a huge cut or channel on the east end and, on the northeast side, two more channels allow access to the outer reef. With the exception of these cuts, the horseshoe is nearly unbroken and marked by an almost continuous line of frothy breakers and a few visible shipwrecks.

The east reef is well known for shipwrecks—victims of weather, poor navigation or wreckers who lured them ashore in ages past. The most famous Grand Cayman story of all is the Wreck of the Ten Sails. It involved ten English sailing ships that, following their leader, all fell upon the East End reef during a storm nearly 200 years ago. The folks at Gun Cay answered their distress calls and



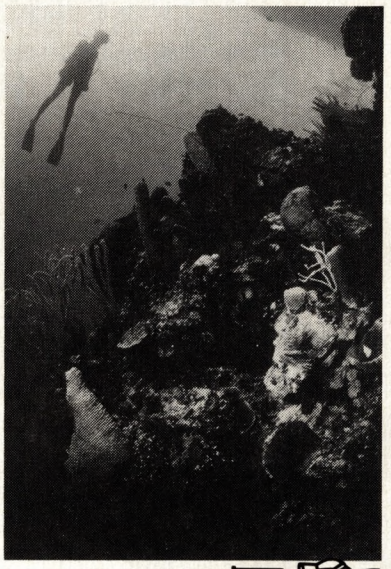
Bob Soto's East End Safari departs three times a week from the Seven Mile Beach area for an adventure trip to the remote eastern end of Grand Cayman Island. The route the van takes is along the scenic south coast, moving from the developed side of the island to the undeveloped.

went out into the stormy seas, rescuing every seaman aboard the foundering vessels. According to legend, it was this heroic deed that set into motion the declaration by King George that the Cayman Islands would be free of taxation.

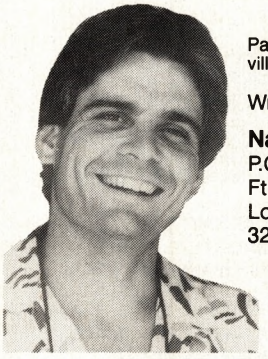
Today, the *Ridgefield* is the most visually impressive and most conspicuous wreck site. Resting on the south side of the main east end channel, she is a signature of East End diving. The huge freighter ran aground during the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion in 1962. When I first photographed her in the late 1960s, the hull was intact. Over the years she has been slowly falling apart. This year I noticed a further tilt to her broken bow. Supposedly, the *Ridgefield* sits directly over a series of older shipwrecks. Investigators have identified a Spanish galleon and an English warship, to name two. There are some great photo opportunities in the shallows of the *Ridgefield* anchor and other wreckage. Available light is usually all that is necessary as the water is normally very clear.

Soto's East End Safari operates two dive craft. The *Deep Six* is a 33 foot custom V-hull that can carry 16 divers. The *Barracuda* is a 28 foot custom V-hull of similar design that can carry 10. Both are equipped with towers that allow navigation through the horseshoe reef safely. Both vessels have camera bins, tank racks and well designed stern platforms. They also carry a full complement of safe-

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EAST END

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By mid-morning, the boat is anchored on a wall dive site where the usual profile is a 100 foot dive for 20 minutes. The East End's most compelling attractions are its spectacular drop-offs. Nearly 20 years ago I was first introduced to these wilderness walls and I have never gotten over the experience. There are more than 30 established sites; it would take a lifetime to see it all.

Typically, dives begin at 60-80 feet where fingers of coral stretch to the edge of an abyss. On the tops of ledges and shelves and along the vertical wall are deepwater seafans, spiralling wire corals, branches of black corals, and sponges in hot colors and unusual shapes. The subject matter may be predictable, but never monotonous. No two areas and no two sponges are exactly the same. Every turn, every canyon promises a new breathtaking sight. In front of you is a riot of colors and the shapes of dreams; over your shoulder is a silent, blue infinity. Along the East End drop-offs are hundreds of beautiful deepwater tropicals such as royal grammas and black cap basslets. Large black and Nassau groupers are common and, from the deep, eagle rays, huge turtles and distant sharks are not that rare.

The Maze is a wall site named for its intricate fissures, swim-throughs and narrow coral canyons. They often cross over, dovetail or split apart, eventually spilling out over the edge of the wall. The Tunnel of Love is a long winding coral cavern that begins on the reef crest and exits out the coral wall. Cayman Canyon is a vertical drop decorated with an exotic selection of corals and sponges. Lost Wally is a fantastic wall dive. Monstrous coral formations are cut with narrow fissures 50-80 feet deep. The wall is undercut in many places, forming dramatic overhangs that protect delicate fan and sponge formations. Beneath ledges, some of the largest and most vibrant green and yellow tube sponges in all the Caribbean can be found. Other outstanding wall dives on the East End include Three Sisters, River of Sand, Wall Ninety and Split Rock.

After a rest and surface interval, the second dive site is selected before noon. What in other areas might be mundane or at least anti-climatic, is another kind of an East End thrill. In addition to the previously mentioned shipwrecks, the medium depth corals, particularly on the southeast side, are extremely well formed and complex. A favorite second dive site is Ironshore Gardens. Here is a mammoth reef crest of huge coral boulders capped with delicate elkhorn and dissected by a dizzy array of coral tunnels and passage-

ways. Not long ago I selected Ironshore Gardens as the perfect site to test and photograph the new Tekna U/W vehicles. Regardless of transportation, experienced divers will find a new revelation or discovery at every bend and tunnel.

It is important to realize that operators all share a common problem; divers are



photo/Geri Murphy

Cayman Airways is the official flag carrier of the Caymans—in operation 14 years.

truly individuals with individual wants and needs. Soto's has served large numbers of divers (since 1957) and served them well in a variety of daily trips and programs. Discriminating divers who shun popular sites and wish to be more explorer than tourist will appreciate the new program of advanced activities. Bob Soto's has answered the challenge with the East End Dive Safari, an opportunity to view underwater Cayman with the same distinct thrills I experienced years ago. It's a great day out of town.

On Grand Cayman, reservations for an East End day or night Safari can be made at any Bob Soto's by writing Bob Soto's, P.O. Box 1801, Grand Cayman, BWI or simply by calling 9-2022.

For bookings or information in the U.S. call Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd. at (800) 262-7686, in Florida call (305) 981-7555; write 5821 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 203, Hollywood, FL 33021.

NASSAU UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

(Continued from Page 121)

visit the Cable Beach or Paradise Island casinos at night will find transportation easy and inexpensive.

A major advantage in planning a Nassau diving sortie is the ease of getting to this destination. There are more direct flights from the U.S. into Nassau, Bahamas than any Caribbean destination.

Stuart Cove's Nassau Undersea Adventures is marketed in the U.S. by Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures. Watson, a legendary diving figure and a veteran of Bahamas diving, has established a network of affiliate operations throughout the islands. The U.S. office is your contact for information on the gateway to the exciting James Bond movie sites and the Tongue of the Ocean. Write: Nassau Undersea Adventures, P.O. Box 21766, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33335; or phone, toll free, (800) 327-8150, in Florida (305) 763-2188, in Nassau (local number) 326-4171.

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photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

PARKWAY'S OCEAN JACKET III

ON THE LEADING EDGE OF BC DESIGN

BY JIM WALKER

Parkway's Ocean Jacket III has undergone several design changes recently. Among these is color. The jacket is now available in a red/black/silver combination that coordinates with Parkway's Fiero and new Shorty wetsuits. It is also available in a navy/royal/silver combination that coordinates with the Northern II, Mercury and other suits. The combination shown here has a body of black, with silver shoulders, silver and red accent stripes and black piping.

Functional design changes in the Ocean Jacket III are not revolutionary. After all, why drastically alter a good thing? The changes are, instead, refinements—much like yearly updates in an automobile that's already a hot seller. Yet, these small changes keep the jacket on the leading edge of BC design.

The Ocean Jacket III is made of sturdy 400 denier nylon, which is very resistant to tears and abrasion. Strap attachments are reinforced with sewn-on plastic tabs. The BC's inner bladder is 12 mil thick urethane and the jacket has mesh panels for water drainage.

The cut of the jacket is stylish and close-fitting to reduce drag underwater. The open shoulders allow unrestricted movement. (This year the contour allows even more room.) Drysuit wearers will find it also allows easy access to chest-

mounted inflation valves.

The shoulders are padded for comfort and have adjustable, quick-release buckles. The diver can slip on the jacket, snap the shoulder straps closed and adjust them in seconds. This year these buckles have been moved over the top of the padded shoulders for extra comfort.

The jacket is secured with a wide, padded cummerbund-style waistband. It closes with Velcro and, so, can be adjusted to fit a variety of waists. The cummerbund slips through six nylon webbing loops around the inside of the jacket for support and a close fit. The front of the BC is secured with a nylon webbing strap and adjustable, quick-release buckle.

The Ocean Jacket III's plastic backpack has a reinforced, rubberized tank support and a nylon webbing tank band that closes with a plastic cam buckle and



Parkway's Ocean Jacket III incorporates several updates in design. The shoulder buckles have been moved up onto the padded shoulders for comfort, and the pockets no longer have top flaps.

secures with Velcro. The band has a rubberized sleeve to prevent tank slippage.

The jacket has a combination manual/low pressure inflator mechanism (Parkway's Softouch inflator) attached via a corrugated hose to the left shoulder. Pulling down on the mechanism opens a quick dump valve at that shoulder. The hose is held in a convenient location with a Velcro closing guide. There is also an overpressure relief valve on the back of the right shoulder.

The Ocean Jacket III has two large, Velcro closing pockets. This year, the pockets do not have top flaps. Instead, the openings are streamlined into the accent stripe design.

The pocket on the diver's right has a secondary chamber behind it that closes with a bright orange Velcro tab. The extra second stage is carried here, and the orange tab will guide an out-of-air buddy to it. The pocket on the diver's left has a plastic key clip sewn inside. Behind this

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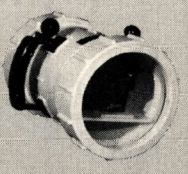


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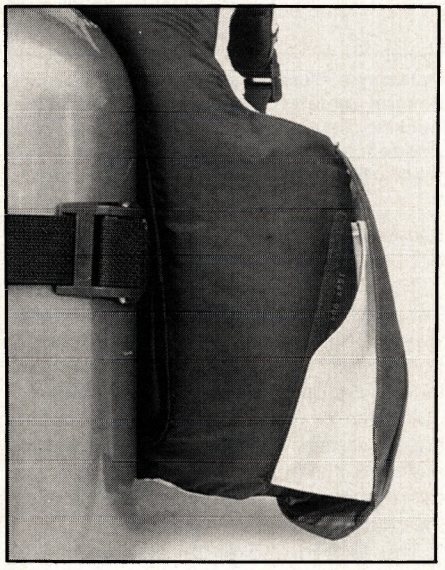
OCEAN JACKET III

pocket is a site for attachment of an optional CO_2 emergency inflator.

A Velcro closing guide is available for the submersible pressure gauge hose. This year it has been moved to a better position on the left pocket. Two stainless steel D-rings are attached to the waistband supports. Accessories such as a gear bag can be clipped to these.



The Ocean Jacket III's console guide has been moved to the top of the diver's left pocket and the right pocket features an extra second stage chamber behind it.



The Ocean Jacket III offers all the popular BC jacket options plus its own refinements. The result is a sturdy, good looking, easy-to-operate unit. It comes in four sizes offering 50, 45, 35 and 30 pounds of positive buoyancy. The suggested retail price is $322. For the address of the nearest Parkway dealer contact Parkway, 241 Raritan Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

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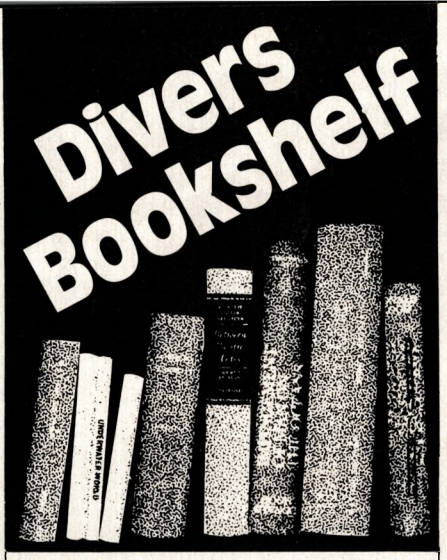
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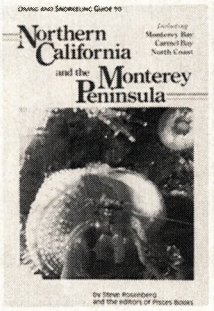
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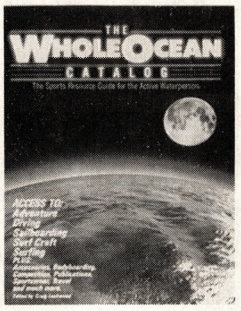
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Divers Bookshelf

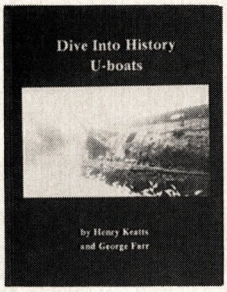




Northern California and the Monterey Peninsula—By Steve Rosenberg, this guide contains descriptions of dive sites along the Central and Northern California coast. Includes many color photos and maps. $9.95. Pisces Books, One School Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542.



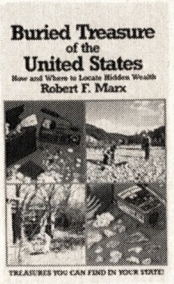
The Whole Ocean Catalog—Edited by Craig Lockwood, this book is a collection of thoughts, ocean lore, technical tips and recreational tools. It also includes short stories and black and white photos. $7.95 from The Body Press, P.O. Box 5367, Tucson, Arizona 85703.



Dive into History: U-Boats—By Henry Keatts and George Farr, this book is the first in the *Dive into History* series and discusses German subs. Diagrams, maps, photos. $29.50 + $1.50 shipping (NY state res. + 7½%). Fathom Press, P.O. Box 191, Eastport, NY 11941.



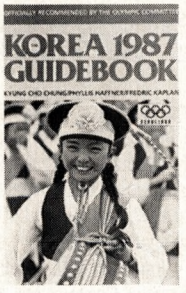
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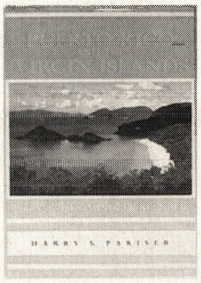
Buried Treasure of the U.S.—By Robert F. Marx, this book covers the history of treasure hunting, treasure hunting techniques, metal detectors, finding a potential treasure site and more. $9.95 from Ram Publishing Company, P.O. Drawer 38649, Dallas, Texas 75238.



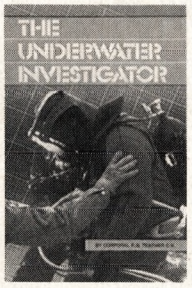
Scuba Diving with Disabilities—By Jill Robinson and A. Dale Fox, this is a comprehensive source for special scuba techniques and gear for disabled divers and their instructors. A variety of disabilities are discussed. $16. Leisure Press, P.O. Box 5076, Champaign, IL 61820.



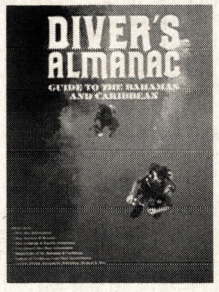
Korea 1987 Guidebook—This travel guide to the Republic of Korea includes information on culture, history, attractions, accommodations and transportion. Maps and black and white photos. $14.95 from Houghton Mifflin, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017.



Guide to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands—By Harry S. Pariser, this guide describes the history, culture, animals, plants, attractions and many other aspects of these islands. Photos and maps. $8.95 from Moon Publications, 722 Wall Street, Chico, CA 95928.



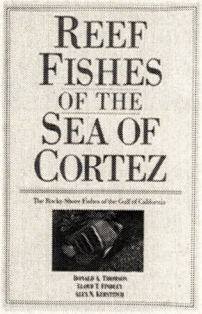
The Underwater Investigator—Written by R.G. Teather, this manual includes many illustrations and photos. It discusses techniques such as fatality investigation and firearms, auto and aircraft recovery. $12.95. Dive Rescue Inc., 2619 Canton Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Diver's Almanac, Guide to the Bahamas and Caribbean—This volume offers information on dive sites, services, resorts and more. Color photos, maps, diagrams and tables. $19.95 from Sports Almanacs, Inc., 1322 East McAndrews Road, Suite 201, Medford, OR 97504.



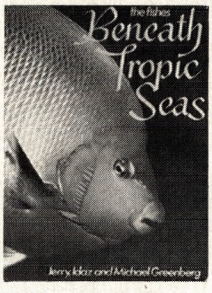
Stress and Performance in Diving—By Drs. Arthur Bachrach and Glen Egstrom, this book discusses how to recognize and control the kinds of stress that lead to panic. A multitude of topics are covered. $26.50 from Best Publishing, P.O. Box 1978, San Pedro, CA 90732.



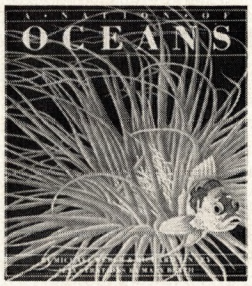
Reef Fishes of the Sea of Cortez—This book discusses the rocky shore fish of the Gulf of California. With black and white and color photos, maps and diagrams. The new paperback edition is $19.95 from Univ. of Arizona Press, 1615 E. Speedway, Tuscon, AZ 85719.



Guide to the Yucatan Peninsula—By Chicki Mallan, this book contains information on flora and fauna, tourist attractions, history, climate and more. Black and white photos, maps of cities and historical sites. $10.95 from Moon Publications, 722 Wall Street, Chico, CA 95928.



The Fishes Beneath Tropic Seas—By Jerry, Idaz and Michael Greenberg, this book is full of color photographs. Descriptions and biological notes on each species. $4.95 (6″ x 9″) or $10.95 (9″ x 12″) from Seahawk Products, 6840 Southwest 92nd St., Miami, FL 33156.



A Nation of Oceans—Written by Michael Weber and Richard Tinney, this book introduces basic principles of marine ecology and a wide variety of species and habitats. $8.95 from the Center for Environmental Education, 1725 DeSales Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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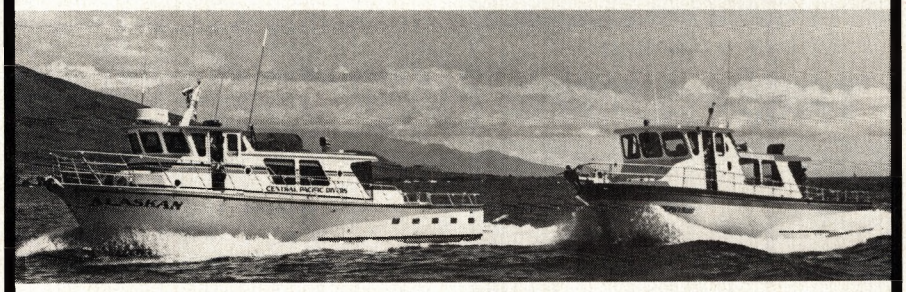
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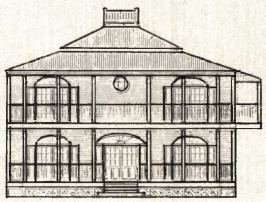


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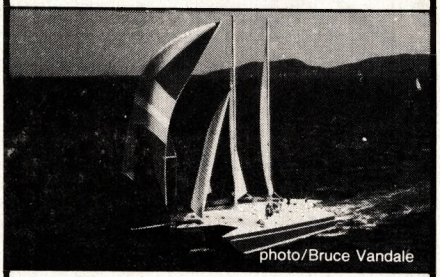
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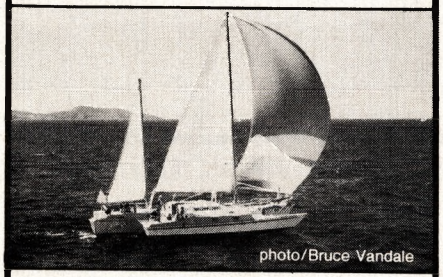
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MYSTERIES OF THE VENTS

DEEP SEA HYDROTNERMAL VENT REPLACES SOLAR ENERGY

BY HILLARY HAUSER

During a 1977 expedition in the dark and gloomy deepsea waters off the Galapagos Islands, marine scientists discovered that sea creatures apparently live on energy emitted from the center of the earth rather than on solar energy. This revolutionary finding, which set the scientific world on its ear, was probed further recently, when scientists from the



photo/Steve Malone

Dr. Ken Johnson

University of California at Santa Barbara developed a chemical "scanner," which is telling them why this subsea phenomenon is possible.

Dr. Kenneth Johnson, an associate research oceanographer at UCSB, said that a return trip to a deepsea hydrothermal vent in the Galapagos verified that animals and plants living one and one-half miles beneath the surface of the ocean are successfully converting sulfide and oxygen into life sustaining energy.

The scanner allowed the researchers to determine what chemicals are sustaining the ecological community clustered around the hydrothermal vent at 7,380 feet, Johnson said. The scanner was developed by Johnson and a UCSB team consisting of zoology professor James Childress, development technician Carl Beehler and research assistant Carole Sakamoto-Arnold. It allowed researchers to measure chemical levels of seawater in deepsea areas in a more direct and accurate way than previously possible.

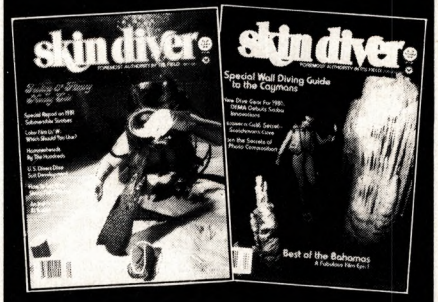
Hydrothermal vents are hot water cracks in the ocean floor created by volcanic spreading. In the area of the vents, water is heated and enriched with metals and sulfur compounds. At the same time, the liquid metals oozing from the volcanic cracks solidify as they come into contact with cool water.

The first hydrothermal vent discovered was in the Galapagos Islands in 1977. Since then, other vents have been discovered in the Gulf of Mexico and the

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North Pacific. Scientists observing the vents from deep diving submersibles noticed strange colonies of animals and plants—doing very nicely at depths previously thought incapable of sustaining life.

Although it was suspected that the animals and plants were obtaining energy from inner-earth volcanic processes, no one really knew for sure just what was taking place until Johnson and his UCSB team developed the chemical scanner.

Before, seawater had to be brought to the surface, where its chemical contents were measured in a topside laboratory. The UCSB scanner, on the other hand, can be taken to the site and measurements recorded directly.

In 1985, the scanner was mounted on the submersible *Alvin* and taken to the Galapagos vent at 7,380 feet. From there, it sent back chemical measurements to the surface.

"Before, we got two to three analyses per hour," Johnson said. "Now, we were getting 1,000 per hour." The increase in measurements told scientists the sulfur and oxygen levels in the water were supporting the unusual communities of giant tube worms, mussels, clams and crabs, which clustered around the vent.

The "chemically powered organisms," Johnson said, "take the sulfide out of the mud and the oxygen out of the water to make energy. At the base of the deepsea food chain is a bacteria that lives in the oxygen-sulfide combination.

"Terrestrial plants take sunlight and make organic carbon out of carbon dioxide," Johnson explained. "Down in the ocean, animals make energy out of sulfide combined with oxygen."

During the 1977 Galapagos expedition, scientists discovered a biological community later dubbed the "Rose Garden," because of its giant, lipstick-red tubeworms. During the 1985 expedition, it was discovered the worms had been almost totally replaced by mussels. Johnson said the scanner may enable scientists to find out why this shift of biology has occurred. "We're not entirely clear on this," he said. "It could be a natural progression, like an empty lot first being covered with weeds, then bushes, then forest. The weeds may be the worms and the trees may be the mussels." The scanner, he said, "allows us to visualize what is going on down there." He said he plans to return to the Galapagos in 1988, hopefully with a French group working with the submersible *Nautile*, which has a deeper diving capability than *Alvin*.

Although the chemical scanner developed by Johnson and his team has stirred up significant interest within the scientific community, the instrument is not something one gets rich on, Johnson said. "You have about a dozen universities doing this kind of research, that's all," he said. "We're happy about it, though. There is nothing like it in the world—as far as I know."

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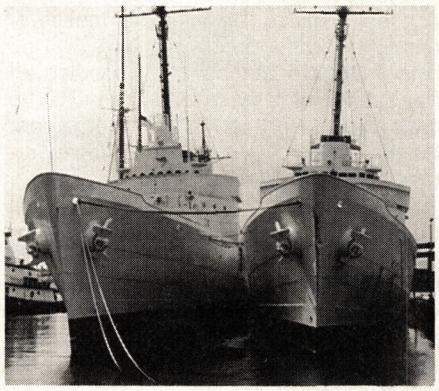


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Gulf Stream water and visit the two ships. The bridges of both are at 50 feet.

The wreck sites will most likely become a preserve of their own within one year and be under the jurisdiction of the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary.

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For information contact Capt. Corky's Divers' World of Key Largo at (305) 451-3200 or (800) 445-8231 out of Florida. You can write to Coast Guard Cutters, P.O. Box 1663, Key Largo, FL 33037.

ART-IFICIAL REEF

Art-ificial Reef will be the joint effort of one local artist, Lluis Dalmau, and nature. Dalmau started the project, which consists of 17 culvert pipes and five sculptures. Once those are submerged in the waters off Miami Beach, nature will then begin the endless task of building, changing and creating its own interpretation of what Dalmau started. "Nature will become the artist's brush and will add to the artwork on a daily basis," said Dalmau of his project. The sculptures will be protected by a special coating of clear antifouling paint to deter marine growth. The remainder of the pipe will be left to the whims of nature, thus creating an ever-changing piece of art for scuba divers and snorkelers to enjoy.

The pipes will be transported by Byrd Marine Contractors and taken approximately one mile behind the Fountainbleau Hilton to be deployed in an area encompassing 40 x 50 feet. The project, one of

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Helix / Sony

Demo Sony Video-8 outfit

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New Ikelite#6030.3 housing $1149.00
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#6030.3 optional accessories:
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Nikonos

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Package 2C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord), Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5), dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 848.00**

Package 3A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 809.00**

Package 3B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings), Helix basic extension tube set & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 885.00**

Package 3C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-ring), Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 909.00**

Package 4A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 905.00**

Package 4B: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) Helix basic extension tube set, dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 980.00**

Package 4C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V w/framer (1:5), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 1005.00**

Package 4D: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) Nikonos close-up outfit (basic), dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 1050.00**

Nikonos Lenses

10315	15mm f2.8	949.00
10314	20mm f2.8	419.00
10310	28mm f3.5 IC	219.00
10311	35mm f2.5 IC	105.00
10512	80mm f4 IC	215.00
10313	28mm f2.8 LC f/land use	169.00

Nikonos Viewfinders

DF-11	15mm V.F., UW use only	209.00
DF-12	20/28mm V.F., UW use	148.00
10751	28mm sportsfinder	16.00
10753	35/80mm sportsfinder	18.00
DF-10	80mm viewfinder, topside use only for Nikonos IV, V	76.00

Nikonos Filters

2265	CC30R	20.00
2402	Skylight (L-1BC)	27.00
2295	Light Yellow (Y-44)	20.00
2399	UV haze (L-37-C)	22.00
10625	Lens hood/filter holder for 35mm, 80mm	6.00

Nikonos Close-Up Outfit

For parallax-free underwater close-up shots at 9-1/4" subject distance. Includes supplementary close-up lens, field framers for 3 lenses (works with 80mm, 35mm or 28mm) and mount braces. For Nikonos V and all earlier models.

10705N	Close-up outfit, basic without case	159.00
10705	Close-up outfit, deluxe w/case	219.00
10706	Case for close-up outfit	63.00

Your old close-up outfit doesn't fit your new Nikonos V? Helix can upgrade your system! Call us for more information.

Nikonos Cases

10420	Carry case f/Nikonos IV and V	34.50
10414	Eveready case for Nikonos III w/35mm, 28mm	25.00*
10415	Eveready case for Nikonos II w/35mm, 28mm	19.50*
10418	Lens case, CL-50, f/35mm	22.50
10419	Lens case, CL-51, f/80mm	31.50

Miscellaneous

10713	O-ring set for V	8.00
10714	O-ring set for IV-A	8.00
10715	O-ring set for III	6.00
10730	Rear lens cap for 15mm (new) 28, 35, 80mm	6.00
10803	Front lens cap for new style 15mm	36.00
10804	Front lens cap (60mm) for 28, 35, 80mm	6.00
10626	Rubber lens hood for 35mm	6.00
10620	Lens protector for 28mm	6.00

Nikonos Speedlight SB-102

When in use with the Nikonos V, the Speedlight's automatic TTL flash exposure control regulates flash output that's instantly reflected off the film. Use the SB-102's target light to accurately aim your strobe before you shoot. Covers a 28mm lens (79°). At full output it has a guide number of 32 on land with ISO 100 film. Five second recycling time with a fresh set of 6 C nicad or alkaline batteries. Includes case, diffuser, arm, tray and TTL sync cord.

10102	Speedlight SB-102	629.00
10101	SB-102 head only w/TTL sync cord & diffuser	509.00

Nikonos Speedlight SB-103

For an underwater flash that's easy to use, the Nikonos SB-103 is all you need. Automatic TTL flash with the Nikonos V; manual flash control may be used with the Nikonos IV-A or III cameras in full, 1/4 and 1/16 power. It covers down to a 28mm lens. Offers optional multiple flash bracket and double sync cord. Uses 4 AA nicad or alkaline batteries. Includes case, diffuser, arm, tray and TTL cord.

10103	Speedlight SB-103	335.00
10104	SB-103 head only w/TTL sync cord and diffuser	219.00

Nikonos Speedlight Accessories

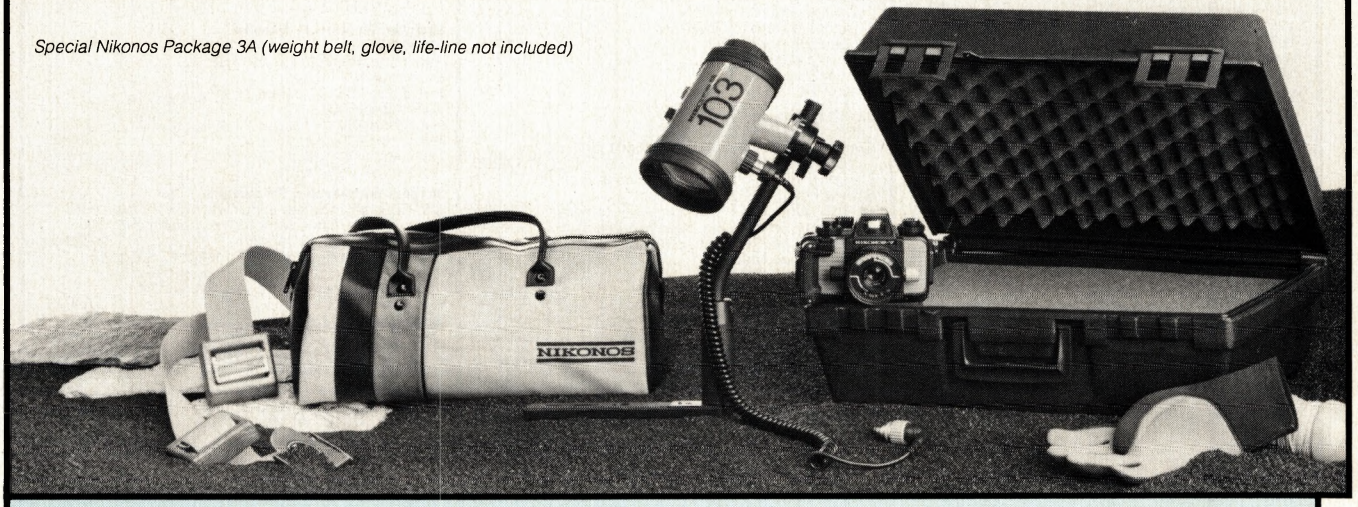
10205	TTL sync cord (land) for Nikonos V	72.00
10724	PC flash adapter (land) for Nikonos III	24.00*
10729	PC flash adapter (land) for Nikonos IV, V	25.00
10201	Double bracket set w/arm and joint for SB-102/103	260.00
10214	Double bracket tray only	125.50
10203	Extension arm set for SB-102/103	116.00
10204	Double TTL sync cord for SB-102/103	116.00
10711	O-ring set w/silicone for SB-103	6.75
10712	O-ring set w/silicone for SB-102	6.75
10200	Protector for SB-102	68.00
10746	SU-101 Auto sensor for 101/102 (auto exp. (non-TTL) with Nikonos III/IV)	102.00
10741	Case for SB-101/102/103	72.00

** Limited quantities*

*** Qualifies for Nikon/Pan Am Buy and Fly Adventure. Purchase this product and a round trip ticket on Pan Am and you'll get 50% off on a companion ticket!*

Products include Nikon Inc. U.S.A. limited warranty application.

Special Nikonos Package 3A (weight belt, glove, life-line not included)



All prices shown are Helix cash prices for mail order only and are subject to change without notice.

Call 800/33-HELIX

Helix

Helix Extension Tube System

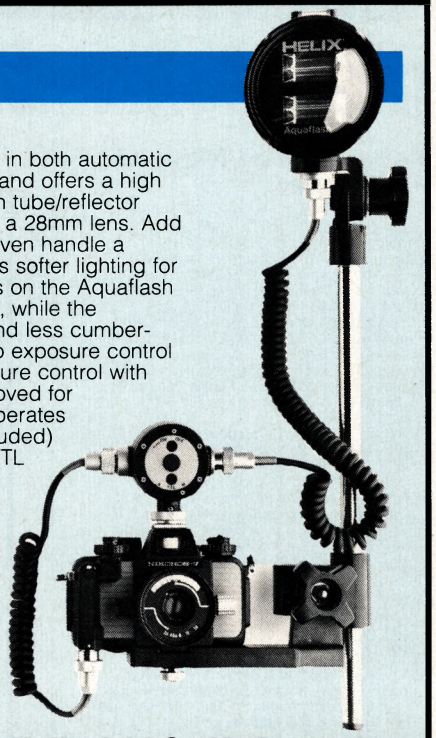
Our unique extension tube system is designed to help you build the most versatile set of tubes and framers available for land use as well as underwater! With just 3 basic tubes, you can develop up to 10 different tube, framer and lens combinations for your 35mm or 28mm Nikonos UWN lenses. Constructed of sturdy black anodized aluminum, each extension tube easily attaches between your Nikonos camera and lens. The epoxy-coated stainless steel framer connects to the extension tube with a knurled knob. Each tube's inside barrel has been specially turned to reduce internal reflections and improve image contrast.

Basic extension tube set w/2 tubes and 3 framers for 35mm UWN (2:1, 1:1, 1:2) 86.00
Basic extension tube set w/2 tubes and 3 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1, 1:1.8, 1:2.75) 86.00
Deluxe extension tube set w/3 tubes and 4 framers for 35mm UWN (2:1,1:1,1:2, 1:3) 120.00
Master extension tube set w/3 tubes and 6 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1.8, 1:2.75) and 35mm UWN (2:1,1:1, 1:2, 1:3) 154.00
Super Master extension tube set w/3 tubes and 7 framers for 28mm UWN (1:1, 1:1.8, 1:2.75) and 35mm UWN (2:1, 1:1, 1:2, 1:3) ... 171.00
Upgrade kit for Helix or Subsea Basic set to Super Master set w/1 tube and 4 framers 86.00
1:1 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN .. 39.50
1:2 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN .. 39.50
1:3 tube w/framer for 35mm UWN .. 39.50
1:1.8 tube w/framer for 28mm UWN 39.50
1:2.75 tube w/framer for 28mm UWN 39.50
Framer only (specify lens and ratio) 25.00

Helix Aquaflash 28TTL

This flash performs like no other. It functions in both automatic and manual exposure modes down to 165', and offers a high UW guide number of 32 at ISO 100. The twin tube/reflector design insures a coverage area sufficent for a 28mm lens. Add the wide angle diffuser, and the 28TTL will even handle a 15mm lens! The unique design also provides softer lighting for macro photography. TTL and swivel controls on the Aquaflash arm allow for a variety of lighting techniques, while the detachable cords allow for easier storage and less cumbersome manual operation. The 28TTL has auto exposure control with the NikonosIII or IV and TTL auto exposure control with the Nikonos V. The sensor may also be removed for compact operation. The Aquaflash 28TTL operates on 6 AA alkaline or nicad batteries (not included) and comes complete with arm, dedicated TTL sync cord, bracket, mounting tray and wide angle diffuser. Includes a 2-year limited Helix warranty.

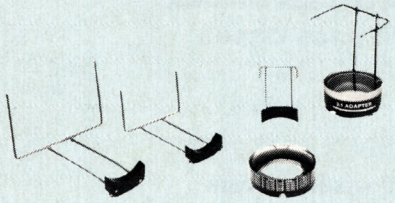
Aquaflash 28TTL 429.00



Helix Land Use Framers

Now it is possible to get macro shots with your 35mm UWN above water. These framers calibrated for surface use with Helix extension tubes are accurate and simple to use.

Land use framer set of 3 (1:1,1:2, and 1:3) for 35mm UWN and Helix extension tubes 59.00
Surface use framer (1:1) for 35mm UWN and Helix blue tube 25.00
Surface use framer (1:2) for 35mm UWN and Helix green tube .. 25.00
Surface use framer (1:3) for 35mm UWN and Helix red tube 25.00



Helix Add-On Underwater Adapters for red tube (1:3)

These two new adapters from Helix increase your shooting versatility! Now you can shoot in more than one magnification ratio without surfacing or carrying more than one camera! When diving with your 35mm UWN and 1:3 (red) extension tube, what do you do when you need more magnification? You add the close-up lens adapter and framer (1:2) to the front of your 35mm — underwater! What do you do when you need less magnification? You add the close focus wide angle adapter (59°/28mm) to the front of your 35mm with 1:3 extension tube, for focusing from 9" to 3.5'.

Close-up lens adapter w/framer 65.95
Close focus wide angle adapter 65.95

More values...

Helix Miscellaneous
HUP-DBT Double bracket (tray only) f/Nikonos V and 2X SB102/103 85.00
Underwater T-shirt 5.95
Flipper key ring 1.95
Audible water detector kit 29.95
Audible water detector w/LED 39.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos I/II (HOK-II) 5.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos III (HOK-III) 5.95
Helix O-ring set f/Nikonos V (HOK-V) 5.95
Helix O-ring extractor tool kit 11.95

Helix/Kamba
Helix Kamba housing f/ A series Canon w/winder 299.50*
Helix/Kamba package includes Canon AV-1, Canon 28mm f2.8, and winder A 445.00*
Internal viewfinder f/Canon 53.50
Aquaflash mount flash bracket 29.90

Helix Cases
Helix accessory tote (9x4x5") 8.95
Helix equipment case w/die cut foam f/Hanimex 35mm & slave strobe (14-1/2x9x4-1/2") 23.95
Helix equipment case w/foam (18x13x8") 44.95

Helix Lighting
HL-4000 U/W Halogen movie/video light, 4.4 AH/12V, w/charger (req. optional lamp) (50W/96 min., 100W/48min., 175W/27min.) 695.00
HL-7000 U/W Halogen movie/video light, 7.7 AH/12V, w/charger (req. optional lamp) (50W/145min.,100W/75 min., 175W/40min.) 799.00

Henderson
Canvas gear bag 11.95

Hydro Photo
Cobra flash arm, 27" 75.00
Cobra flash arm, 19" 75.00
Base plate w/handle (specify f/Nikonos I/II or Nikonos III) 24.95
Base plate (Nikonos IV/V) 24.95
Base plate (Nikonos IV/V) f/2x arms 24.95
T-1 close-up lens f/35 UWN 43.95
T-2 close-up lens f/35UWN 43.95
T-3 close-up lens f/35UWN 43.95
Close-up lens f/28 UWN 43.95
Focusing wand 18.00
Framer 35 18.00
Framer 28 18.00

Ikelite Housings
110 housing f/Vivitar 830, 835, 845 48.00
Disc housing w/water correction lens f/Kodak 3100 49.95
Close-up lens w/framer set f/disc case 35.95
Sportsfinder II f/110 or disc housing 7.95
SLR-AF Super Eye housing (specify camera) 269.95**
SLR-Super Eye housing (specify camera) 269.95**
SLR-MD Super Eye housing (specify camera) 319.95**
Dome port w/shade 54.00
Extension port (4-1/2") 38.00
E/O connector (female) 99.95

Ikelite Housings for Video
Housing f/Sony CCD-M8U handycam 229.95
Housing f/Sony CCD-M8U as above plus wide angle lens adapter and dome 379.50
Housing f/Sony CCD V3/V5 549.00
Housing f/Nikon VM-800 540.00
Housing f/Olympus VX-801 540.00
Housing f/JVC GR-C7 540.00
Wide angle hemispheric .48X lens adapter 179.95
Fisheye .42X lens adapter 108.00

Ikelite Lights
Mini C-lite K 19.00
Mini C-lite H 23.50
Mini C-mark strobe beacon 52.00
Mini C-holster 8.95
Modular Super-lite (req. optional charger) 199.95
Modular Video/Movie lite (req. optional charger) 187.00

Ikelite Strobes & Strobe Housings
Substrobe MS slave strobe 114.00
Substrobe MV TTL strobe 129.95
Substrobe 100 TTL strobe 279.50
Substrobe 150D 325.00
Substrobe 150 399.50
Substrobe 225 439.00
Housing f/Vivitar 283 79.95*
Housing f/Vivitar 285 79.95*

Ikelite Substrobe Packages
MV Package: includes Substrobe MV, TTL sync cord, tray/handle, film advance lever, handle and mount I, and Mini C-lite H 239.00
150 TTL Package: includes Substrobe 150, quick charger, quick handle arm, case w/die-cut foam,TTL sync cord, tray/handle, and film advance lever 599.00

Ikelite Substrobe Accessories
Sync cord (TTL) 47.95
Sync cord f/dual TTL strobes 79.95
Sync cord f/dual Nikonos cameras 79.95
Sync cord (Nelson) 55.95
Sync cord (EO) 95.95
12V modular charger 13.50

* current inventory only
** special order -- allow 4 to 8 weeks

Call 800/33-HELIX

More values...

120/240V modular charger 20.00
120V modular quick charger 32.00
Strobe arm I, single section 23.95
Strobe quick release handle, 22" 59.95

Morris Photo
K-133 Underwater flashlight w/spare halogen lamp 34.95
K-132 Underwater flashlight w/krypton lamp 29.95
Aqua F-III Underwater flash w/2x auto range, bracket, and cord f/ III/IC (req. optional 4 AA batteries) 183.50*
F-III-TTL Underwater flash as above plus TTL .. 269.00

Pelican
Pelicase, 12-1/4x9-1/4x5-1/2" 45.00
Pelican case, 17-1/2x11-7/8x6-1/2" 65.00
King Pelican case, 22x17x8" 105.00
Guard box w/foam (black) 8-1/2x6-1/2x3-1/2" 13.95

Sea & Sea 110 Pocketmarine Camera & Accessories
PC-1 Pocketmarine 110 125.00
PC-1 Pocketmarine 110 w/Sealoc bulkhead 149.00
Helix/Sea & Sea package: includes 110 camera & Helix slave strobe 220.00
CU-1 Macro lens (5") w/wand 61.50
CU-2 Close-up lens 40.50
Shoulder bag 23.30

Sea & Sea 35mm Motormarine camera & Accessories
PC-35/M Motormarine 35mm w/meter 205.00
PC-35/M Motormarine 35mm w/meter and Sealoc bulkhead 219.00
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes PC-35/M & HUP-901 case w/ die cut foam 219.00
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes PC-35/M & Helix slave strobe 297.00
Sea & Sea/Helix package: includes PC-35/M & Helix slave strobe & HUP-901 case 317.95

WL-24 Wide lens adapter (24mm) 159.95
SWL-16 wide lens adapter (16mm) 225.00
CU-3 Close lens 39.95
CU-5 Macro lens w/wand 61.50

Sea & Sea Strobes
YS-20 strobe f/Nikonos I/II w/5' foot cable 99.00*
YS-100 TTL strobe w/arm, tray, and diffuser 475.00
YS-150 strobe f/Nikonos III/IV w/slave 430.00
SA-II Sea arm (2 section), short 14" 97.00
SA-II Sea arm (2 section), long 28" 117.50
SA-III Sea arm (flex) 95.00
Tray and handle (N-1/2) 33.50*
Tray and handle (N3) w/TR 44.50*
Seagrip V tray f/Nikonos III, IV, V & Motormarine 35 81.95

Sea & Sea Lenses for Nikonos
17mm f3.5 wide lens w/case 479.00
PKG. 17mm lens w/optical viewfinder 535.00
20mm f3.5 lens w/case 319.00
24mm Nikonos lens kit 219.00
Nikonos SWL-16 lens kit 225.00
Optical viewfinder f/18, 28, 35mm 78.00

Sekonic
L-164B Marine Meter II 124.00
L-158WH Housing and meter 49.00
L-188WH Housing and meter (battery powered) 64.00

Subatec
Subawinder II add-on wide angle lens 240.00

Underwater Kinetics Lights and Accessories
Super Q light w/charger 60.00
Super QXL3R w/charger 60.00
Super QXL3 21.00
Super QXL4R w/charger 67.50
Super QXL4 22.50
Nylon belt pouch f/QXL3 11.00
Nylon belt pouch f/QXL4 11.00
Universal holder w/rubber strap 13.00
Universal holder w/Velcro 15.00
Belt holder 9.80
Head mount light holder 16.00

Underwater Kinetics Divers Dry Box
Dry box, large (9x7.1x6.3") 17.70
Dry box, small (9x7.1x4.5") 15.00
Dry box, mini 10.65

Underwater Kinetics Dry Cases
518 Dry Case (18x13x5-1/2") 65.00
718 Dry case (18x13x7.2") 78.00

Underwater Kinetics TUS
Pro-Line housing f/Nikon F-3 w/motor drive and action finder, includes aperture and focus gear, water detector, lighting system, and eye cap (req. optional port, strobe sync plug, and arm mount block) 1260.00
EO strobe connector 75.00
Sealoc strobe connector 40.50
Macro port f/55mm 135.00
Macro port f/105mm 195.00
Dome port f/24mm 285.00
Dome port f/15mm 420.00
Dome port f/180° fisheye 525.00
Strobe arm mounting block-universal (Tussy, Oceanic) 12.00
Strobe arm mounting block f/Subsea 40.00
Strobe arm mounting block f/Ikelite 33.00
Vinyl port protector f/macro port 8.30
Vinyl port protector f/24mm dome port 9.40
Vinyl port protector f/15mm dome port 12.60

UW Research Products
UR Pro Marine filter (specify 46, 49, 58mm) 42.50
UR Pro Marine filter, 67mm f/20mm UWN 72.00
UR- Pro Marine filter f/Sony Handycam CCD M8 .. 55.00
Cyclops Marine filter f/15mm UWN complete w/lens shade 169.50**

* current inventory only
** special order -- allow 4 to 8 weeks

Helix/Oceanic

Oceanic strobes offer state-of-the-art digital logic circuitry for uncompromising accuracy, a completely sealed case with magnetic switches, wide 110° beam angle, full power recycle in 3.5 seconds, and above water guide number of 85 at ISO 64. All strobes are rated to 400'. For TTL operation only with the Nikonos V, order the Photopak I, for use in TTL, as a slave strobe or manual operation (with optional sync cord), the Photopak II is the answer. For a manual unit with built-in slave sensor, order the Photopak III. Coupled with an exclusive offer from Helix of a free Hi-lite dive light, holder and "Splash" shorty wet suit (retail value $191.50), one of these packages is the perfect answer to your underwater illumination needs.

"Splash" size chart (include your size with order)

Men's	S	M	L	XL
Height	5'4"-5'8"	5'7"-5'11"	5'11"-6'4"	5'11"-6'4"
Chest	34-37"	35-39"	39-44"	42-46"
Waist	28-32"	29-33"	34-39"	37-42"
Women's	**S**	**M**	**L**	**XL**
Height	4'8"-5'2"	5'1-5'7"	5'4"-5'9"	5'6-5'11"
Chest	32-34"	33-36"	34-37"	36-42"
Waist	22-25"	24-27"	25-28"	28-34"

Helix/Oceanic Underwater Photopak III

- Oceanic OS-3003 manual strobe (non-TTL) w/two power settings, slave and charger
- Manual sync cord (specify Nikonos II, III/IV, V)
- ARM-021 arm, 21"
- NPG tray w/shoe (specify Nikonos II, III/IV, V)
- HUP-902 Helix equipment case with foam
- FREE U-K Oceanic light holder
- FREE Oceanic Hi-lite dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves

Helix special 736.50

Helix/Oceanic Underwater TTL Photopak I

- Oceanic OS-3000TTL strobe, charger, and TTL sync cord
- ARM-021 arm, 21"
- NPG-105S camera tray w/shoe
- HUP-902 Helix equipment case w/foam
- FREE U-K Oceanic light holder
- FREE Oceanic Hi-lite dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves

Helix special 799.95

Offers good only while supplies last!

Photopak I (knife, fin and second wet suit not included)

Helix/Oceanic Underwater TTL Photopak II

- Oceanic OS-3000 Master strobe w/slave, two power levels, and charger
- TTL sync cord
- ARM-021 arm, 21"
- NPG-105S camera tray w/shoe
- HUP-902 Helix equipment case w/foam
- FREE U-K Oceanic light holder
- FREE Oceanic Hi-lite dive light
- FREE Oceanic "Splash" shorty wet suit (2.5mm) w/long sleeves

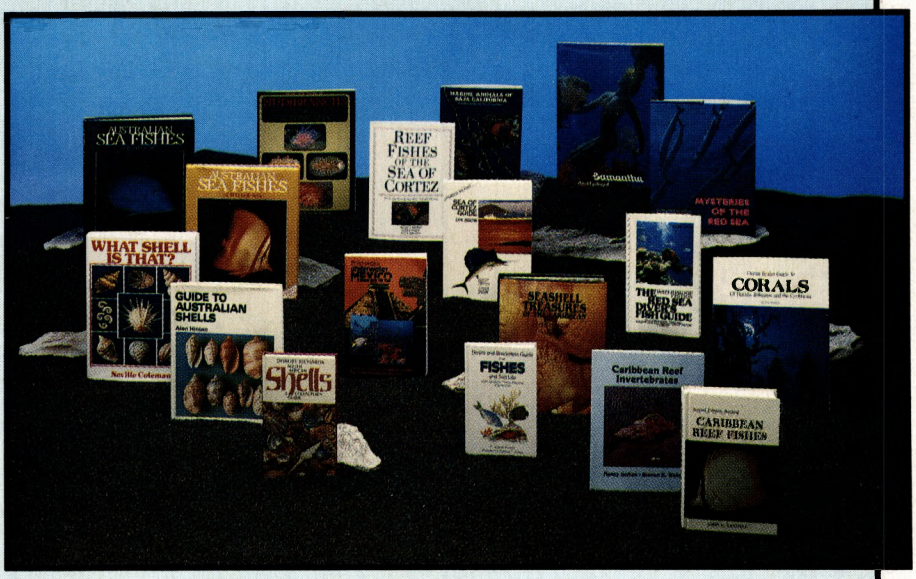
Helix special 859.50



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Books



Australia

Australian Sea Fishes, Vol. 1 South of 30° South by Neville Coleman **29.50**

Nudibranchs of Australia by Richard C. William and Neville Coleman **25.00**

Australian Sea Fishes, Vol. 2, North of 30° North by Neville Coleman **32.50**

What Shell Is That? by Neville Coleman **27.95**

Guide to Australian Shells by Alan Hinton **14.50**

Africa

South African Shells by Deirdre Richards **17.50**

Mexico

Marine Animals of Baja California by Daniel Gotshall **14.95**

Reef Fishes of the Sea of Cortez by Donald A Thompson, Lloyd T. Findley And Alex N. Kerstitch **19.95**

Sea of Cortez Guide by Dix Brow **19.95**

Diver's Guide to Underwater Mexico by Michael B. and Lauren K. Farley **14.95**

Red Sea

Samanatha by David Pilosof ... **19.95**

Mysteries of the Red Sea by Lev Fishelson and David Pilosof **34.95**

The Red Sea Diver's Fish Guide by Shlomo Cohen **13.50**

Caribbean

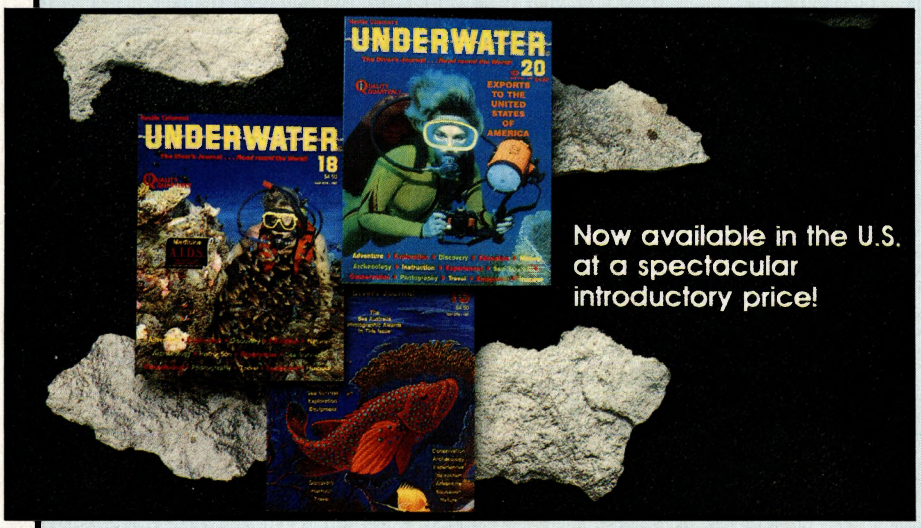
Seashell Treasures of the Caribbean by Lesley Sutty **19.95**

Divers' and Snorklers' Guide to the Fishes and Sea Life of the Caribbean, Florida, Bahamas and Bermuda by F. Joseph Stokes, illustrated by Charlotte Stokes **12.95**

Caribbean Reef Invertebrates by Nancy Sefton and Steven K. Webster **16.95**

Caribbean Reef Fishes by John E. Randall **29.95**

Ocean Realm Guide to the Corals of Florida, Bahamas, and the Caribbean by Paul Humann **11.00**



Underwater

We are proud to announce that Helix is now the United States distributor for Neville Coleman's UNDERWATER magazine. This quarterly magazine is geared towards serious divers the world over. The prevailing themes of conservation and an understanding of the underwater environment make reading UNDERWATER a joy. It never loses sight of the interaction of all life and the part man must play if we expect the grandeur to last.

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the heaviest in existence (35 tons), will become a permanent art exhibit.

Dalmau's Art-ificial Reef has the full support of the City of Miami Beach and the moral backing of the artificial reefs program. Although the Metro-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management is unable to financially support the project, DERM officials feel it is a unique project that will, hopefully, have some positive environmental impact, plus increase public awareness of the artificial reef program in Dade County. "None of the existing reefs are as alluring as Dalmau's planned piece and DERM will help the diving public find the artist's patch of ocean floor," said DERM director Tony Clemente.

TIARA BEACH HOTEL

The Tiara Beach Hotel and Peter Hughes Dive Tiara on Cayman Brac are expanding facilities in order to provide larger and more luxurious accommodations. In addition to increasing the number of hotel rooms available, the development of a dive village and luxury timeshare apartments are in the works.

Thirteen new rooms have been added to the complex, bringing the total number to 40. Seven of these are luxury apartments, each having an ocean view, spa, king-sized beds, color TV and telephone.

Construction will soon begin on an 80 seat conference center. Existing dining facilities are being remodeled and enlarged. A redwood deck to facilitate outdoor dining is being built over the water.

Phase one of the Dive Village at Tiara Beach consists of 18 new deluxe rooms. The village is to have its own swimming pool, spa and over-the-water bar and dining room. Expected completion date is high season '88/'89. The first nine timeshare apartments in the Club Tiara program are due for completion in May.

Changes in Peter Hughes' Dive Tiara include the arrival of a new custom-built dive boat dubbed *Brac Fever*. This is the third dive boat and present plans include the addition of two more to the fleet. The existing pier is being enlarged to accommodate these vessels.

Dive Tiara has also acquired a second 15 cubic foot per minute air compressor. A new dive shop and photo center are to be completed by December.

UNDERWATER CALENDAR

Underwater World Enterprises has published its third annual calendar. Denizens of the deep are captured in this series of underwater photographs taken in several of the world's seas by Leah Mansfield and Randy Harwood. The individual color photographs are beautifully reproduced on heavy stock and are suitable for framing.

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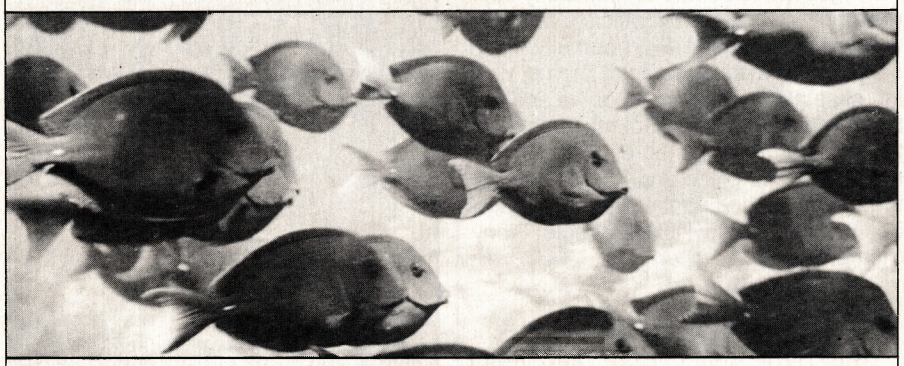
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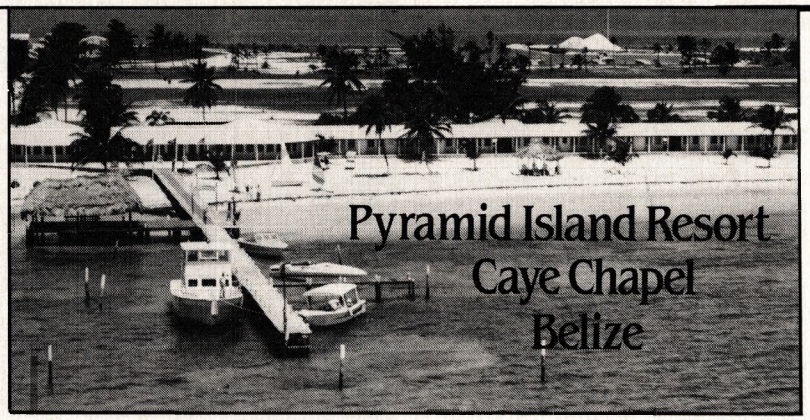
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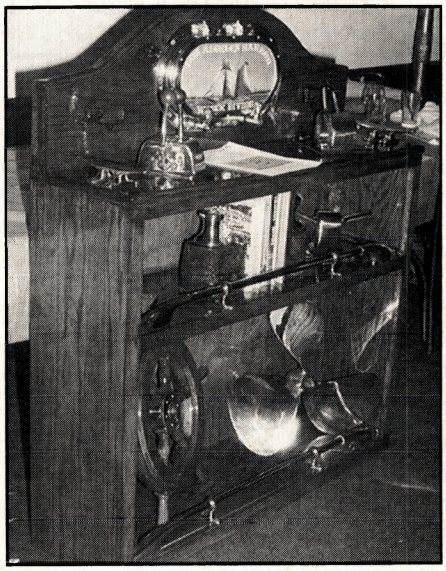
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CALIFORNIA WRECK DIVERS

ACTIVE FUN GROUP GOES FOR THE BRASS

BY DAVID LEE AND STEVE LAWSON

Attracted by the artifacts being recovered during normal game diving adventures, a small group of people formed a club in the early '70s that has become one of the premier organizations of its kind in the country. The California Wreck Divers, Inc. has regularly scheduled trips to shipwrecks along the California Coast and has more than 150 members. Although most wrecks are unrecognizable as ships, the brass and other artifacts recovered are what keeps these people coming back dive after dive.



photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

The annual competition in December produces some elaborate artifact displays.

Members of the California Wreck Divers have little interest in reef or game diving and few cameras or spearguns can be found among their gear. Rock picks, hammers, chisels, crowbars and liftbags are the tools used to release the brass from the broken wreckage and the conglomerate that was once part of a proud ship. No matter how small or insignificant the artifact recovered, it becomes a treasure to the diver.

Although Southern California does not have the long history of the East Coast sea lanes (nearly all the wrecks have gone down in this century) it does have

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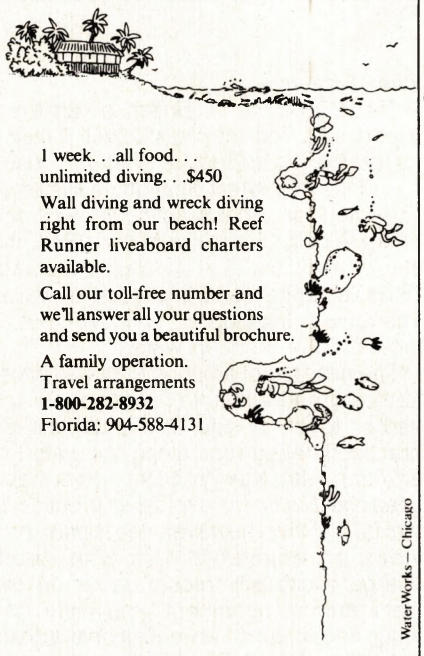
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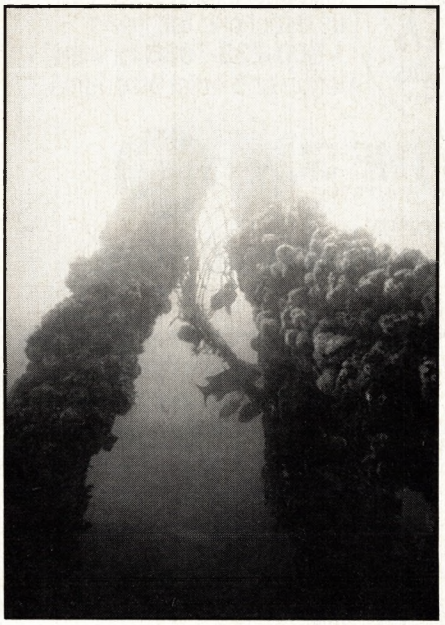
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a rich history of shipwrecks. Nearly all of the divable wrecks are less than 100 feet deep and very close to land owing to the sharp drop in the seafloor off the coast. For example, only three miles out from the main entrance to Los Angeles Harbor, lies the wreck of the *Olympic*.

The *Olympic*, originally named the *Star of France*, was launched in 1877. She was 258 feet long and measured 1,776 tons. During her career, she sailed to India on the jute route and raced Australian wool clippers on the Pacific. Later, she sailed to Alaska with the *Star of India* and the *Star of Alaska* to fish for salmon. In 1936 the sailing bark was converted to a fishing barge. In 1940, while anchored in the channel, she was rammed by a Japanese freighter and sank.

Today she lies on her starboard side in 90 to 100 feet of water and has something for every diver. For the photographer there is a thick covering of strawberry anemones and the occasional net from a luckless trawler. Game hunters will find many large sheephead and bass swimming through her nooks and crannies. For the serious wreck diver, however, a dig through the scattered debris is often rewarded with an artifact.



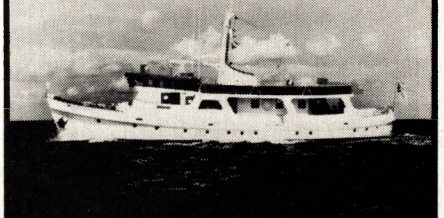
The *Olympic*, rammed by a Japanese freighter, sank just outside LA Harbor.

Over the years, the *Olympic* has yielded many wonderful finds. During the early '70s many portholes were found. Cast in relief on the stormcovers of most was the decorative house flag of Alaska Packers, making them a rare collector's item. They are among the most sought after and prized of those from any California wreck.

Pieces of rare wood such as teak and lignum vitae have been removed and transformed into wonderful displays. As a fishing barge, the *Olympic* served meals on china plates and sold soft drinks in glass bottles. Many of these are still

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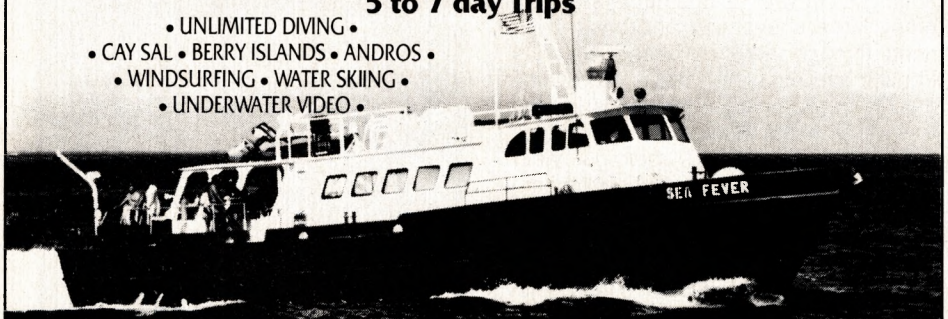
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CALIFORNIA WRECK DIVERS

found and are highly prized treasures. Steve Lawson, a new wreck diver, was rewarded on his first dive with an intact oil lamp, complete with glass chimney.

A project undertaken by the California Wreck Divers and still underway is the removal and restoration of the capstan, weighing more than 2,200 pounds. The salvage took the better part of a day and utilized a score of highly experienced divers. Once fully restored, this capstan will be on display at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum.



The USS *John C. Butler*, a destroyer escort awarded the Presidential Citation for its heroic efforts in what has been called the "Greatest Seafight in History," was used for target practice in 1970 and broke in half. Commissioned in 1944, the stern now rests in Northwest Harbor of San Clemente Island in 80 feet of water. The bow's location is unknown but is thought to be in deep water.

The navy is not anxious to have visitors to its turf and it is not uncommon for the harbor to be unsafe as fighter jets do practice strafing runs along the water. In addition, the Navy's SEAL units have used the *Butler* for explosive practice in the past. Now, however, the *Butler* provides an enjoyable dive with depth charge racks still recognizable on the stern and compartments the diver can enter and in which an occasional artifact can still be found. There is also a five inch gun turret off to one side.

During one of the first dives on the wreck, the late John Kelly was photographing within one of the openings when his flash highlighted something

floating on the ceiling. Not normally a wreck diver, but along to take pictures, he grabbed what appeared to be a can. Upon inspection topside, his can turned out to be a watertight container holding a repeater compass!

Twenty-two miles across the sea lies Santa Catalina Island. Immortalized in song during the '60s, the island had been a popular fishing area as well as a local vacation getaway for years. In 1930, the then world's largest privately owned yacht, the 163 foot *Valiant*, sank in Descanso Bay after burning for three days. She carried with her an abundance of silverware and what has been rumored to be $47,000 in diamonds and jewelry. The first attempts at salvage were made in the



The USS *John C. Butler*, a destroyer escort, served in WW II and the Korean War.

late '50s when a couple of hardhat divers tore off the superstructure and dove into the wreck, seeking the *Valiant*'s treasure. Mel Fisher was lured by the *Valiant* during his early diving days and removed one of her props. He was frustrated in his attempt to remove the second prop because he turned the nut the wrong way!

For many years, the *Valiant* was a gold mine for portholes, silverware and coins. Over the years, two different silverware monograms have been recovered: Silverware with Y-Aras represented the original owner (Aras was the former owner's wife's first name, Sara, backwards). Silverware with an H represented Mr. Howard, the owner at the time of her sinking. The coins found have been a mixture of American silver, Chinese and *Valiant* tokens. During the prohibition era, guests aboard the *Valiant* were given tokens inscribed "Good for One Drink." In Avalon, guests would go into various establishments and buy drinks using these tokens. Later, a member of the crew would redeem them. If discovered today, the diver can still buy a drink in town as these arti-

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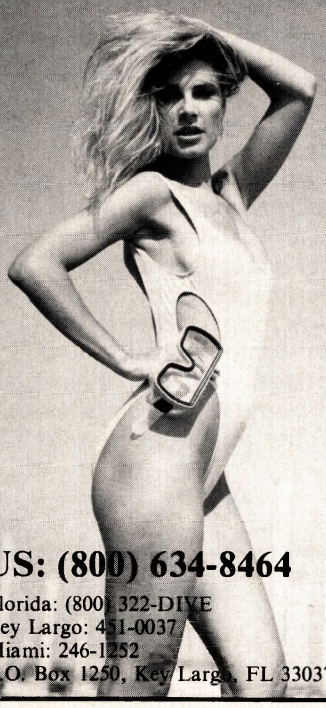
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CALIFORNIA WRECK DIVERS

facts are highly prized.

September 8, 1923 was a grim day for the United States Navy. Sailing from San Francisco to its home port in San Diego, Destroyer Squadron 11 was running at 20 knots to show the speed and agility of the fleet. At 9:00 pm orders were given to change course to 095 degrees. This course was to take the squadron down the Santa Barbara Channel to San Diego. Unfortunately, navigation was not what it



The stern of the *John C. Butler* lies in 90 feet of water off San Clemente Island.

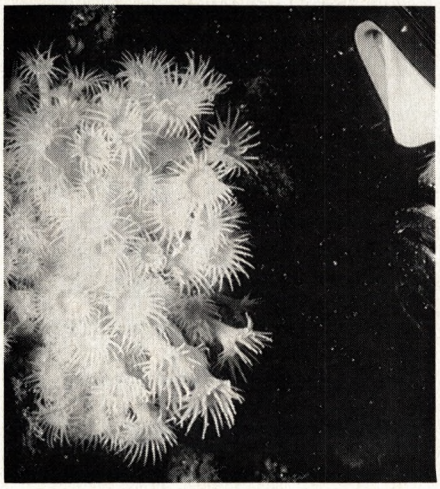
is today. The fleet was running on dead reckoning and the commanding officer thought he was farther south and west than he was. Within five minutes, seven of the navy's proud fleet ran aground.

Known to California divers as Honda, this area has had a history of shipwrecks. The *Yankee Blade*, a goldrush sidewheel steamer, was carrying lucky miners and their gold down the first leg of their journey to the East Coast when she ran aground. The *Santa Rosa* and the *Nippon Maru* added themselves to this graveyard in 1911 and 1933, but it is the destroyers that bring the wreck diver to this forbidding area north of Santa Barbara.

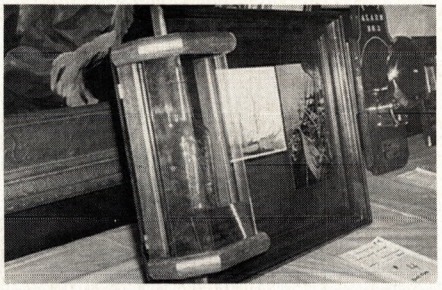
Today, virtually all of the destroyers' steel hulls have been pounded away by the relentless surf and storms. Pieces of brass lie strewn about the bottom and embedded in the iron/sand conglomerate. On a calm clear day, it is possible to see shining brass while leaning over the rail of a dive boat. The recovery of many of the artifacts, however, requires the use of rock picks, hammers and chisels. Valve handles, gunsight telescopes, shell

casings and a multitude of items have been recovered. There is a catch, however: The weather is unpredictable and beach access is prohibited owing to its location on Vandenberg Air Force Base. The wrecks are only accessible by boat and only when the weather permits.

One destroyer, the *Young*, ended its life after hitting the cliff and rolling over on a sandy bottom only 20 feet deep. On a recent trip, divers stumbled upon a "glory hole" and found items that caused quite a stir. The first was an officer's sword handle with gold braid and handle intact. This find, recovered by David Lee, caused him to virtually "inhale his regulator." However, the truly rare find was dis-



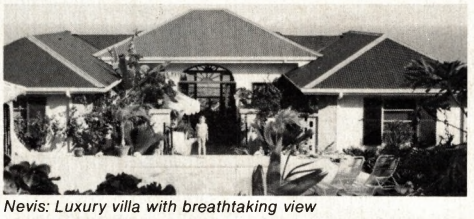
Above: A cluster of yellow anemones can be found on the bow of the *Valiant*. The 163 foot luxury yacht was less than four years old when she burned and sank in Descanso Bay off Catalina Island. Her deteriorating hull is covered with macro life. Below: Another of the displays of a ship's artifacts entered in the CA Wreck Divers' yearly competition. These often include photos of the ships before they sank.



covered by Dan Purdie and was the Annapolis class ring of the commanding officer of the *Young*, William Calhoun.

The California Wreck Divers' annual awards banquet is the social highlight of the year, featuring keynote speakers such as Jack McKenney, Clive Cussler and Duncan Mathewson III. Club members are people from every walk of life: doctors, lawyers, welders, carpenters, teachers, housewives and lots more—all with the common interest of diving shipwrecks, finding brass and having a great time.

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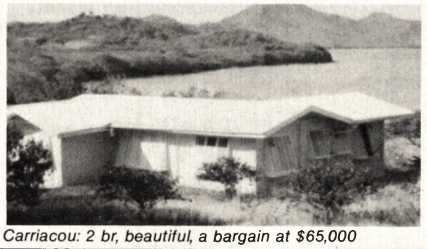
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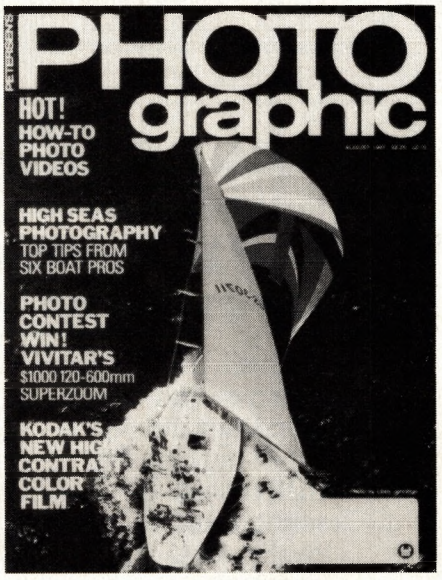
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photos/Frank Palazzi

10 TIPS FOR BETTER DEEP DIVING

BY HARRY AVERILL

Deep diving is not so much an activity in itself as it is a means to an end. When a dive site, such as a wreck or drop-off, lies deeper than 60 feet, divers need to use special techniques.

Here are ten tips that will make these dives easier, safer and more enjoyable.

Recreational divers should stay well with-



1. Make your deepest dive first: Everyone knows this, right? However, you may not fully understand why it is done.

Try this experiment on paper. Plan a series of dives to various depths with various surface intervals. Work your dives out two ways: deepest dive first and shallowest dive first. Figure out how much total bottom time you are allowed.

You will discover that making the deepest dive first usually gives you the greatest overall bottom time. Doing this also means that subsequent dives will help you decompress from previous ones.

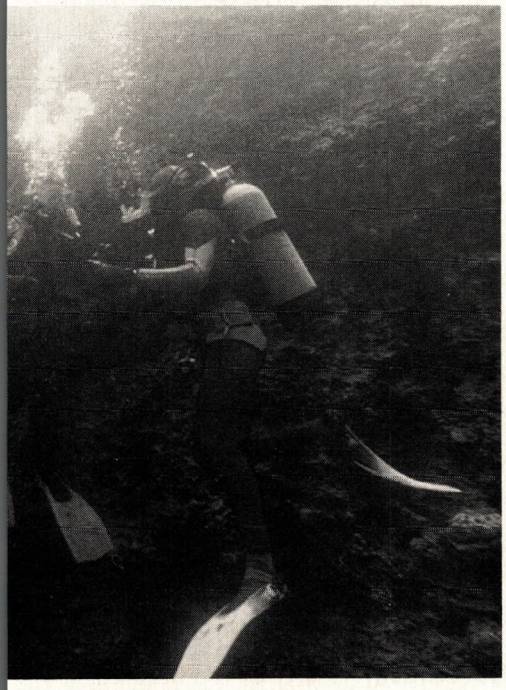
2. Plan contingency limits and stops: You may be planning a 90 foot dive for 25 minutes, but what if you accidentally go to 100 feet, overstay your bottom time or both?

On deep dives, you should make contingency plans for such occurrences. For example, if you end up ten feet deeper than planned, how many minutes do you need to trim from your actual bottom time? These plans should also include the required stops at ten feet in case you accidentally exceed the no-decompression limits.

It helps to write your contingency plans on a slate so you can show your buddy which plan you are going to follow, should the need arise. Carry plastic dive tables with you as well.

3. Stay well within depth, time and air limits: Research shows recreational divers are far better off staying well within the no-decompression limits given in the U.S. Navy tables. Staying well within these limits gives you an additional margin for error. It also minimizes your chances of encountering one of those rare situations in which divers get bent.

in U.S. Navy no-decompression limits.

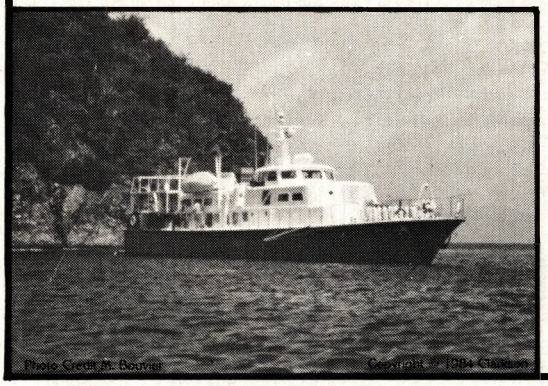


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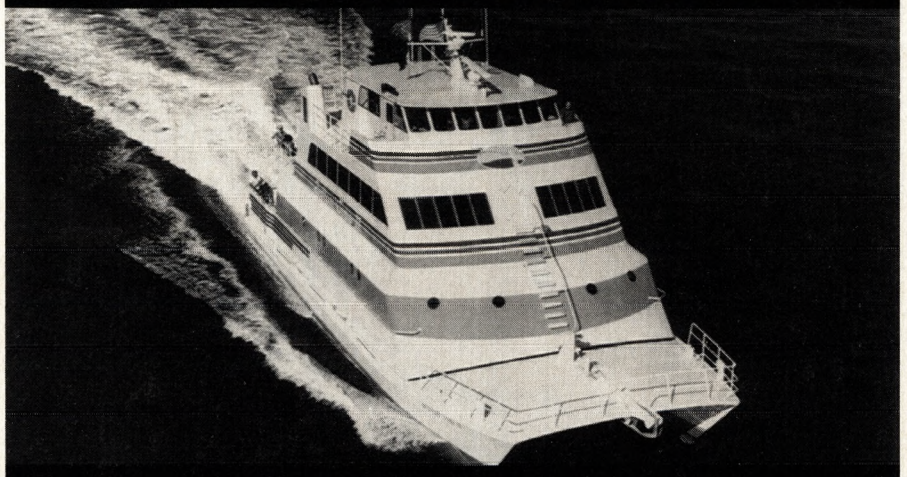
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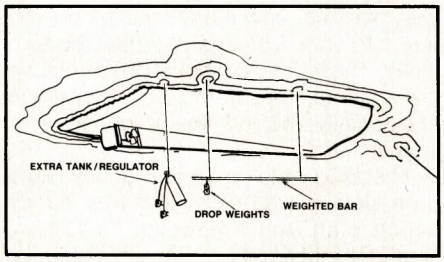
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DEEP DIVING TIPS

Human Underwater Biology, Inc. recommends the following, more conservative no-decompression limits:

Depth (feet)	Limit (minutes)
130	10
120	12
110	15
100	20
90	25
80	30
70	40
60	50
50	70
40	120
30	360
20	None

Remember the recommended depth limit for recreational dives is 100 feet.



A staging area (below boat) for safety decompression stops consists of a weighted line or bar, an extra tank and regulator.

New divers should not make unsupervised dives past 60 feet.

You should also allow a greater margin for safety in terms of air use. On shallow dives, most divers allow 500 psi for ascent. On deep dives, this figure should be 800-1,000 psi.

4. Plan safety decompression stops: These are different than required decompression stops. A safety stop is a three minute stop made at 10 to 20 feet even though it is not required. It allows outgassing and further reduces the chances of decompression sickness.

It may help to establish a safety decompression stop staging area. This consists of a weighted line or bar and an extra tank and regulator.

Add a safety stop to your bottom time, not your surface interval. If you have stayed at least five minutes inside the no-decompression limits, this extra five minutes will not put you over.

5. Use an ascent/descent line: A line makes it easier to control your ascent and descent. It provides a reference as to how fast you are rising or sinking.

Divers make most deep dives from boats. This provides a built-in ascent/descent line: the anchorline. Shore divers can accomplish the same thing by using a weighted line and float.

6. Wear a thicker than average exposure suit: Not only is most water cold-

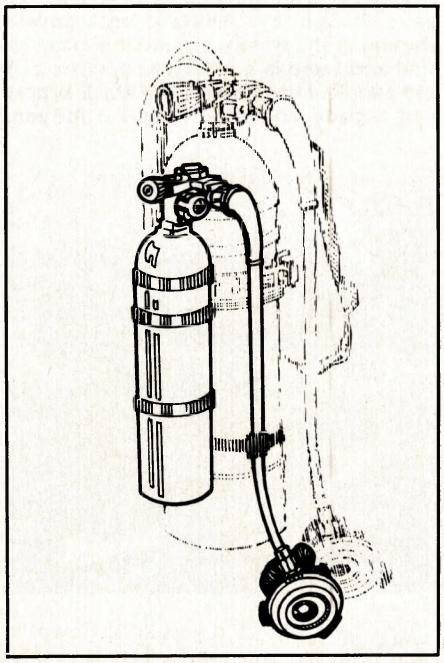
er the deeper you go, wetsuits lose much of their insulating ability in deep water. A one-quarter inch wetsuit compresses to less than one-eighth inch at 100 feet.

The best exposure suit for deep dives in water colder than 75°F is a drysuit. By adding air to it, you can maintain the same degree of insulation at 100 feet as at the surface.

You may also encounter sudden or drastic reductions in water temperature as you approach the bottom. This may call for a hood and gloves.

7. Carry a larger air supply: Because air consumption increases with depth, you may want to switch to a larger tank for deep dives. Using doubles will, of course, double your air supply. It will also double the weight and drag you must overcome. A better solution may be a larger single tank. These are available in sizes up to 104 cubic feet. They provide additional air—and an increased margin of safety—with only a minimal increase in weight and drag.

Experienced deep divers often use pony bottles. These ensure that, in an emergency, a diver has sufficient air for a normal ascent and safety decompression stop. And, if he/she needs to share air with another diver, each will have his/her own air supply and regulator.



illustrations/courtesy PADI

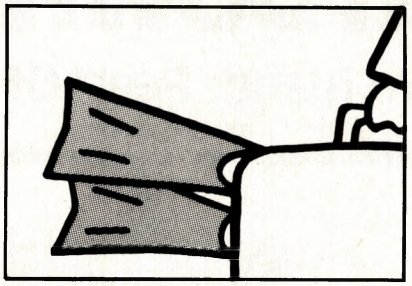
A pony bottle has its own regulator.

8. Wear less weight: When wearing a wetsuit, you may lose as much as 12 pounds of buoyancy at 100 feet, owing to suit compression. You can compensate for this by adding air to your BC. This, however, causes several problems.

Fully inflated BCs tend to ride up. They lift the upper portion of your body while your legs sink. This makes swimming difficult. Overinflated BCs cause substantial drag. They also require you to make buoyancy adjustments more frequently.

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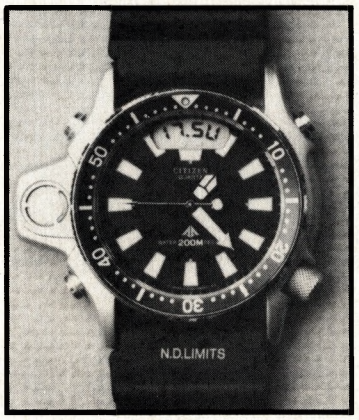
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Diving News From Down Under

Lord Howe Island: Pearl Of The Coral Sea

BY GERI MURPHY

One of Australia's best kept secrets is a tiny vacation paradise known as Lord Howe Island. Few Americans have ever heard of it and even fewer realize this tiny speck of Pacific real estate offers superb diving opportunities. It is almost as though Australians are keeping the best for themselves.

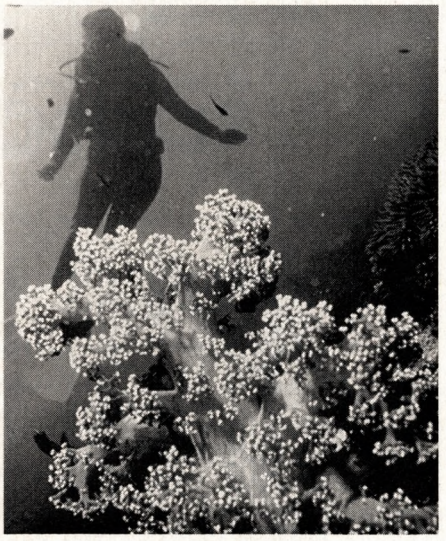
Lord Howe Island is 425 miles northeast of Sydney; a convenient two hour flight by twin engine commuter aircraft. Volcanic in nature, this unique island features 3,000 foot high mountain peaks, rolling hills, green pastures and a large, protected, white sand beach. The resort community contains 280 year-round island residents. No more than 400 visitors are allowed on the island at any one time.

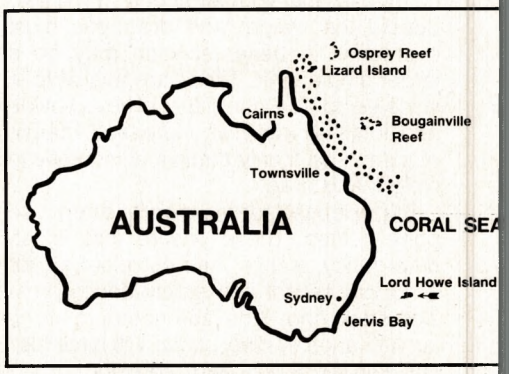
The hotel facilities consist of six guest lodges, most of which range in size from 5-18 rooms. In addition to these there are a number of self-contained efficiency apartments that are usually occupied by repeat visitors. Recreation facilities include bicycling, boating, golf, fishing, mountain hiking and canoeing.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Lord Howe Island is that this is the only land based dive resort in the Coral Sea. Granted, it is at the southern reaches of this oceanic territory, but Lord Howe does afford a unique opportunity to observe and photograph a wide spectrum of rare fishes and marine life.

One of Lord Howe's major points of interest is a large, well protected bay known as the Lagoon. Four miles long and one mile wide, this shallow ocean garden is filled with living corals and an amazing collection of tropical and subtropical fish. Depths range from three to six feet, making it ideal for snorkeling. Beyond the Lagoon lies a variety of deeper reefs and small islets that are ideal for scuba diving and U/W photography.

Since all waters surrounding Lord Howe Island have been designated a national marine park, spearfishing is prohibited. The wildlife above and below the surface is considered so rare that Lord Howe Island has been nominated as a world heritage area.





Lord Howe Island is in the southern reaches of the Coral Sea, 425 miles northeast of Sydney. Brilliant soft corals abound in the waters around the small island and there is a resident population of 280 people. Lord Howe has a small airport and a good selection of guest lodges.



Fortunately for traveling divers, Lord Howe Island features a well equipped resort diving facility. This is a full service operation that includes a compressor, scuba tanks and a 24 foot open boat. Dive trips are highly personalized, limited to six persons and led by certified PADI instructors. The Lord Howe facility is operated under the auspices of Sea Life Travel and Pro-Dive, a chain of seven franchised dive shop operations stretching along the Australian coast from Cairns to Jervis Bay.

The best way to reach Lord Howe Island is to fly direct to Sydney and then catch a commuter flight to Lord Howe. Qantas, Australia's flagship airline, operates daily flights to Sydney from Los Angeles and San Francisco. Commuter flights from Sydney to Lord Howe are operated by Norfolk Airlines.

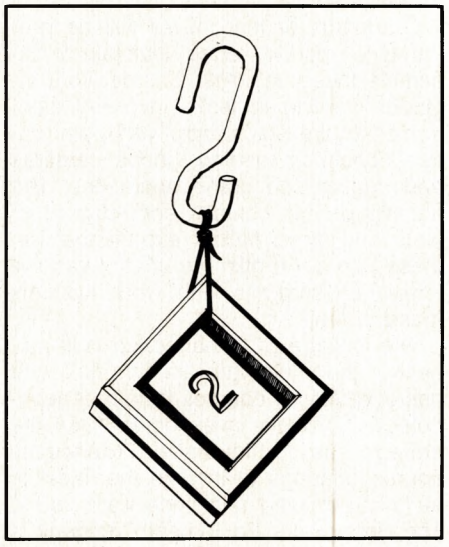
For more information about Lord Howe Island and your personal copy of its new color brochure, write to Sea Life Travel, 27 Alfreda Street, Coogee Beach, N.S.W., 2034, Australia.

DEEP DIVING TIPS

Using less weight solves many of these problems. Less weight means you use less air to adjust buoyancy. Your BC has less tendency to ride up and it becomes easier to remain in trim.

The problem with using less weight is that it becomes harder to descend. It is also harder to remain down in shallow water, such as when making a safety decompression stop.

A solution is to use drop weights to help with descent. You leave these at the bottom of the ascent/descent line and pick them up on ascent. Leaving extra weights at the safety decompression stop staging area is a good idea, too. These



Drop weight

may come in handy if you accidentally leave your drop weights at the bottom.

9. Limit the distance you cover underwater: When your air runs low on shallow dives, you can still surface, take a bearing on the boat or shore, then swim back underwater. While this is easier than surface swimming, it is a luxury you may not have on deep dives.

Shorter no-decompression limits and increased air consumption may not allow the time you need to make such an underwater swim. Unfortunately, a direct ascent to the surface, followed by heavy exertion, increases the risk of decompression sickness.

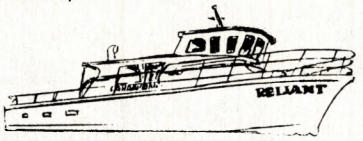
Consequently, you should limit the distance you plan to cover underwater in proportion to your depth. The deeper you go, the closer you should stay to the ascent/descent line.

10. Take a light: Deeper water is darker water. Depth filters out an amazing amount of sunlight. It also robs you of the vivid colors you see in shallow water. A small underwater light not only allows you to see in cracks and crevices, it also shows you what the bottom would look like if it were closer to the surface.

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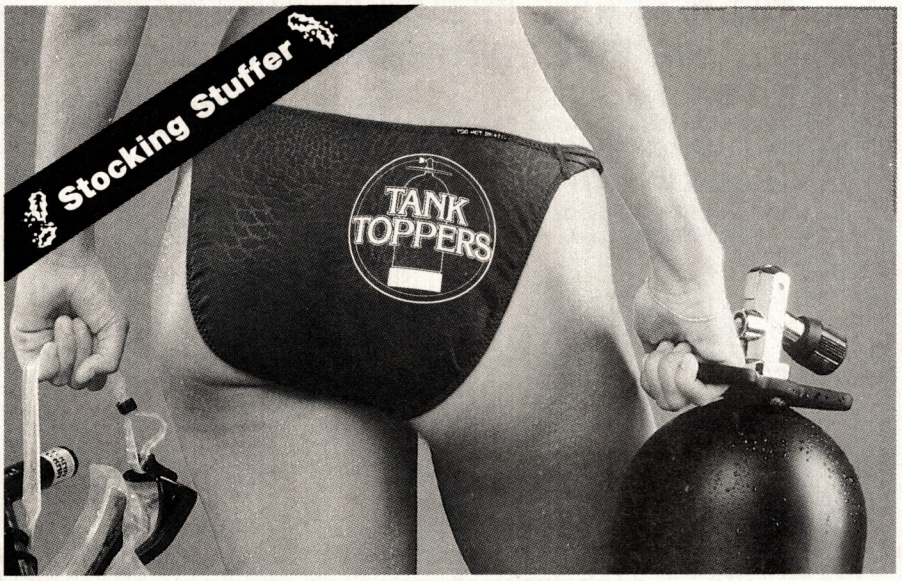
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CO U/W VEHICLE TRAINING

The College of Oceaneering, in the Los Angeles Harbor, and the Underwater Equipment Company of Texas, will mutually offer underwater vehicle training at the CO campus in Wilmington. The two month course will train pilots, technicians and supervisors in underwater ROV and ROC operation.

Remote Operated Vehicles perform underwater tasks for harbor service companies, scientific expeditions, the nuclear industry or for fire and police enforcement agencies. It is this type of vehicle that located the wreck of the *Titanic* and searched for the remains of the *Challenger* space shuttle.

Graduates of the course will be prepared to operate, repair, maintain or assemble these vehicles. Course work includes training in tasks involving electronics, hydraulics, control vans, generators, schematic reading, videos, cameras and rigging and crane operations. The training period includes both classroom work and direct harbor experience with these ROVs. An offshore control van will familiarize students with work systems found in the field.

The College of Oceaneering is a pioneer in the underwater training field and has a variety of courses in marine technology. Since its inception in 1969 the college has continually broadened its course offerings to include the latest in technical training and underwater work. The Underwater Equipment Company is equally experienced in the area of underwater vehicle operation and training. The merger of these two companies will add a great deal of expertise to the graduates' skills.

PADI RECORDS

The first half of 1987 marked a record increase in the number of PADI divemaster, assistant instructor and instructor members, as demand for PADI educational programs continued to grow. The number of individuals achieving these professional levels increased 20 percent in the United States, compared to the same period in 1986 and was up more than 17 percent worldwide.

Overall, PADI certifications were up 12 percent for the first half of 1987 compared to the first half of 1986. This increase represents a total of 148,544 divers certified in the first half of 1987, compared with 131,884 in the first half of 1986. June 1987 showed specialty training certifications up more than 27 percent compared to June 1986, advanced open water diver certifications up nearly 20 percent and rescue diver certifications up more than 40 percent.

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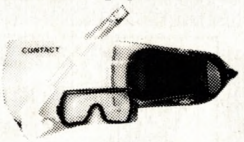


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SEA ELITE
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SEA ELITE
•Sea Elite contoured snorkel with purge; blue, yellow, clear, rose.

BEUCHAT
•Beuchat open heel fin; contact fin comes in black, blue, pink.



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PARKWAY CONSOLE
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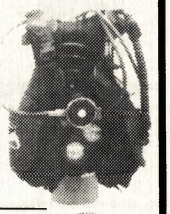
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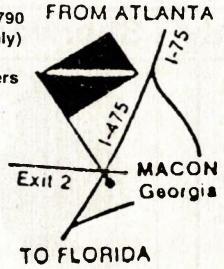
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Shadow Package II
For the diver who likes discrete, top quality equipment, we present some of **U.S.TECH**'s best ★ The Shadow jacket BCD - all black - with rapid exhaust, power inflator, waist support band, back pack, pockets ★ ***Vanguard Professional*** regulator with high performance first stage and professional second stage, with SCUBA Guard case (reviewed in Jan. '87 Skin Diver) ★ Sport octopus with yellow cover and 36" hose (full two year warranty) ★ Datacom console with pressure and depth gauges, with full lifetime warranty. The choice of professionals. Color coordinated.
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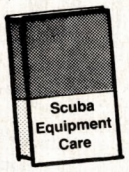
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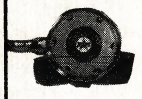
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Datacom II Console
Reviewed in April Skin Diver Magazine, the Datacom II Console is one of the most unique high quality consoles available. Color coded for clarity, with large easy-to-read numbers, full luminous faces, and heavy duty housing. The only totally complete lifetime warranty in the industry! Pressure gauge with built in thermometer, depth gauge with maximum depth indicating needle, and no-decompression tables on back.
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This octopus is constructed from a light weight composite that will stand up the harshest conditions. Resistant to chemicals, debris, and corrosion! The Sport Octopus includes a 36" long hose, bright yellow second stage cover, and silicone mouthpiece. The housing is warranted for life, parts and labor for two years. From the diving innovators at **U.S.TECH**.
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DIVER GREETING CARDS

As the holiday season approaches, divers and their families once again begin to search for unique greeting cards that involve diving. F & R Studios in Chicago, Illinois is producing a unique series of greeting cards designed by scuba divers.



One depicts Santa underwater in full scuba, goodie bag, octopus and all! Another has Santa on his sled, underwater, being pulled by reindeer—all in full scuba!

All cards include envelopes. They can be purchased at many scuba centers, or directly from F & R studios, 4001 W. Devon, Suite 211, Chicago, IL 60631; (312) 725-7700.

DIVER AUDIO TAPES

A new series of diving oriented audio tapes is now available from The Complete Diver. Owner David Bondy of Deerfield Beach, Florida explains that the tapes are designed to be both educational and entertaining. Each 30-45 minute tape includes on-location interviews with diving industry experts covering various subjects such as U/W photography, night diving, treasure diving, wreck diving and equipment maintenance. The first series of tapes includes 15 different subjects.

Bondy, a 14 year diving veteran, has been involved in several U/W film projects and states that "safety aspects" of diving are one of the primary concerns in the production of the audio tapes.

For more information on The Complete Diver Audio Series contact The Complete Diver, 618 NW 47th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442; (305) 997-8523.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

Following a review by the U.S. Department of Education, eligible students needing financial assistance to attend PADI International College can now qualify for a number of U.S. government loans and grants—including the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) and Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) programs—to help defer the cost of their education. These programs can be worth thousands of dollars for each student.

For more information contact PADI International College at (800) 235-3434 (U.S.); (800) 223-8697 (California); or (714) 540-7234 (outside U.S.).

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PKL-135-36	200	6.92	10.07
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EPR 135-36	64	5.65	8.80
EPN 135-36	100	6.25	9.40
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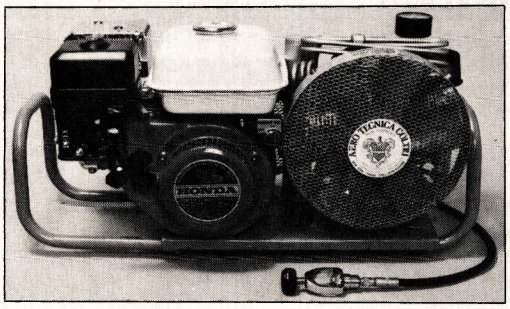
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The suggested retail price is $19.95 and quantity discounts are available for dealers. For more information contact: Ultra Manufacturing Corp., 12220 SW 132 Court, Miami, FL 33186 or call (305) 232-0017 in Florida or (800) 63-Ultra outside Florida.

NAUI IDCI

The NAUI International Diving Career Institute in the Florida Keys has established a special recognition award for outstanding graduates. Special award certificates are now being presented to graduates who have exhibited outstanding performance during their career training. The graduates are asked the names of people they feel have helped prepare them for this high level of achievement. These people will also receive an award from the institute.

The institute director, Bob Brayman, said, "We want to recognize all the people in a class who put out the extra effort to perform on the outstanding level. Also, we want to award and recognize the people who helped them attain this high level. We are not limiting the issuing of these awards to one in any given class. All members of a class could receive these in addition to their normal diploma, if they perform at the outstanding level."

For more information contact NAUI International Diving Career Institute, c/o Hail's Diving Center, Faro Blanco Resort, 1994 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida Keys 33050; in Florida call (305) 743-5929; out of state call (800) 331-HALL.

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- Accurate to within seconds per month
- Scratch-resistant mineral-glass crystal
- Sonic beep on the hour keeps track of time
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(ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL)

As part of a nationwide publicity campaign, a leading New York firm will give away its most expensive precision watch —the Nationally Advertised GFX "Celsius-9" Chronometer— for the astonishing publicity price of only $19.95 to every person who writes to the company address (below) before Midnight, December 22, 1987.

This *original* publicity ad must accompany your request. Copies or photostats are *not* acceptable.

Similar chronometers have been nationally advertised and featured by others in leading media at $49.95 each. In fact, you might think watches with features like these would sell for well over $100.00. But, during this nationwide publicity campaign, you don't pay $100.00—or even $49.95. You pay only $19.95! But your request must be mailed no later than Midnight, Dec. 22, 1987.

Powered by a computer-type chip and precision quartz movement, each GFX "Celsius-9" watch is a time-keeping "control center". Its tri-level, high-tech face includes an analog dial with sweep second hand, a multi-function LCD digital read-out that records time in both 12 and 24 hour (civilian and military) modes and a rotating bezel to measure elapsed time. The ultimate in a man's wristwatch, this GFX "Celsius-9" tells you the time in two time zones (while traveling); chimes the hour to remind you of passing time; keeps track of the day and date; awakens you from sleep; and is even water resistant to *five* atmospheres.

One of the most technologically sophisticated watches ever sold by this multi-million dollar New York firm, the GFX "Celsius-9" features a Stopwatch/Chronograph *(accurate to 1/100 of a second)*; a Tachymeter that times average vehicle speed over a "measured mile"; and, unseen, an amazing photon dispersion beam—smaller than the "eye" of a hornet—lights up the mineral-crystal in the dark.

This handsome high-tech "zero refraction" matte black timepiece is perfect for the office, sporting events (as player or spectator), that special night-on-the-town or just everyday wear. No wonder this is destined to be the fastest selling and most expensive chronometer of its kind ever sold by this multi-million dollar New York firm.

These GFX "Celsius-9" watches will not be sold at this or any other price by the company in any store. There is a limit of two (2) per address at this price, but if your request is mailed early enough (before Dec. 17) you may order up to 5. Each GFX watch is covered by the company's full one-year money-back guarantee.

TO ORDER: Mail this *original* publicity ad (no copies or photostats) together with your name and address and $19.95 for each watch. Add only $3 shipping no matter how many watches you request. (New York residents add sales tax.) Allow up to 6-8 weeks for shipment. *Make check payable to RBM Ltd.* Mail to: **RBM, GFX Watch, Dept. 135-103, Box 1085, Hicksville, New York 11802. (R44640)**

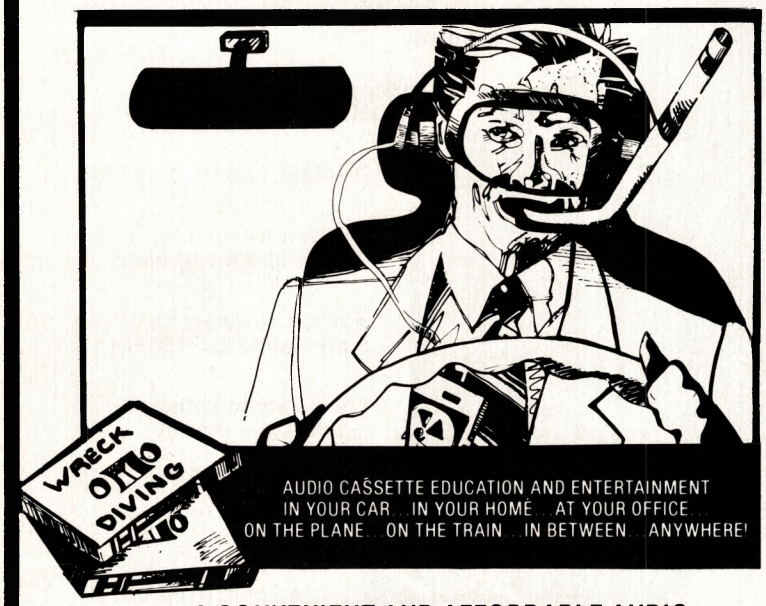
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MANATEE FUND RAISERS

Eight north Georgia dive stores raised more than $11,000 through a benefit party and underwater treasure hunt held recently. The funds will go to the Save the Manatee Club and the Save the Manatee Society, two organizations working to protect this endangered Florida mammal.



Some of these proceeds will help the only established captive breeding program for the manatee.

The Save the Manatee Benefit was initiated by PADI regional training coordinator Jon Coon and carried through by Atlanta Diving & Aquatic Center, Atlanta Divers Supply, Berry Scuba, Charbon's Specialty Sports, Diving World, Gladdin Second Stage, Sandy Springs Divers, and Venture Out Sports & Travel, all supplying not only direct material contributions, but manpower as well.

Gail Austin and Ann MacBrayer coordinated the two events. The benefit party featured films by Dr. Jesse White, who operates the only captive breeding program for the manatee and by Dr. Harvey Barnett, who is a photographer for National Geographic.

The underwater treasure hunt was held at Etowah River Campground, just north of Atlanta.

Although the benefit was a great success, more funding is needed for key equipment for Dr. White's breeding program.

NASE INSTRUCTOR TRAINERS

The National Association of Scuba Educators appointed eight new instructor trainers. The following have been trained by NASE's national training director, John Slate: William Shadburn, St. Louis, Missouri; John Hall, St. Charles, Missouri; Donald Anderson, St. Louis, Missouri; Dennis Salisbury, Nashville, Tennessee; Steven Deem, Baltimore, Maryland; Gordon Messinger, Columbia, Missouri; Charles Brulle, Columbia, Missouri; and Jeff Denman, Yuma, Arizona. These instructor trainers will join an already impressive list of trainers established across the U.S. and in the Caribbean.

For information contact John Slate, NASE National Training Director, P.O. Box 554, Orange Park, Florida 32067; (904) 269-3670 or contact NASE Headquarters at (800) 458-6273.

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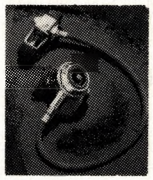
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	List	Our Price
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*NEMROD ARIES	$189.95	$75.00
*PRO-SUB (balanced)	$190.00	$144.00
*BEUCHAT (balanced)	$200.00	$150.00
OCTOPUS or BEUCHAT	$99.95	$49.95
TABATA, OCTOPUS	$105.00	$75.00

All regulators from Tabata, Parkway, Beuchat, Sherwood, Dacor, Pro-Sub, and most major brands on sale

*Lifetime Warranty on these models

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TUSA LIBERATOR SCA50DX – 4 guage w/knife	$332.00	$249.00
SIERRA SCUBA CONSOLE	$126.50	$95.00
BEUCHAT GUIDE DECOMPRESSION COMPUTER (lifetime warranty)	$450.00	$337.50
BEUCHAT GUIDE DECOMPRESSION COMPUTER w/pressure gauge & compass on console (lifetime warranty)	$599.00	$449.00
TEKNA BOTTOM TIMER	$75.00	$54.95
TEKNA COMBO w/compass, dive timer & knife	$299.95	$224.95
TEKNA DIGITEK 11 FUNCTION AUTO DIVE COMPUTER	$424.95	$319.95
TEKNA COMPUTX 15 FUNCTION AUTO DECOMPRESSION COMPUTER	$524.95	$389.95
EDGE DIVING COMPUTER	$599.95	$495.00

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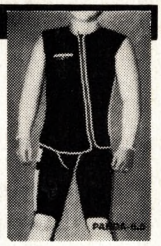
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SEATEC ORIGINAL MANTA	$385.00	$288.00
SEATEC ECONOMY MANTA	$286.00	$189.95
PRO-SUB CONCEPT V	$328.00	$232.50

All BC's from Tabata, Seatec, Sea Systems, Parkway, Zeagle, Beuchat, Mares, Scuba-Pro, Dacor, Sherwood, and most other brands on sale.

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	List	Our Price
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	List	Our Price
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CASIO NAUTILUS with depth gauge		$46.95
TABATA TITANIUM DIVER'S WATCH	$560.00	$420.00

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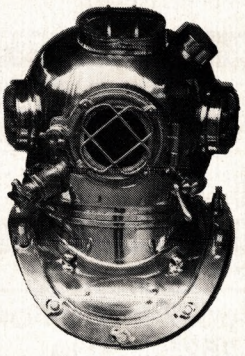
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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 54)

ist. Their consulting experts include Michael Williamson, a specialist in sidescan sonar; Lawrence D. Stone, Jr., skilled in search analysis and computer software for operations research; John D. Moore, an authority on ROVs; Alan Scott, having special skills in surface vessel satellite navigation; search and recovery strategic and tactical director Don C. Craft, (USN Ret.); the president of Sound Oceans Systems, Inc., Frank (Ted) Brockett, for shipwreck exploration; and the man who developed real-time display for sidescan sonar, Steve Lambert. With a crew having these qualifications, almost anything could be found under any conditions at any depth. And thus, the vessel *Central America* was found in 8,000 feet of water.

VESSEL AND CARGO

The *Central America* was a 272 foot, wooden hulled vessel built in 1852 and propelled by a combination of steam and sail. She was one of the innovative sidewheelers of the mid-1800s. To reduce the probability of boiler explosions, her engines were designed to operate at low steam pressure. The steam power system was very large and very heavy for the amount of power generated. This design also added greatly to the displacement of the vessel and the likelihood it would sink if flooded.

The great rush of people to and from the California gold fields started in 1848. There was no rapid method of transportation from the populous East Coast of the United States to the West Coast. The trek across prairies and western mountains was slow and dangerous. The sea voyage around South America's Cape Horn was even slower and more dangerous. The obvious answer was an Atlantic sea voyage to the narrow isthmus at Panama, a trip across the isthmus via stage, at first, and later by railroad, and again by vessel north along the West Coast to California. During the gold rush years an estimated 400,000 prospectors and settlers chose this route to expected riches. The Atlantic Ocean part of this journey was where the *Central America* was employed, and by September, 1857 she had completed 43 round trips between New York and Aspinwell (now Colon) Panama, usually with a stop at Havana, Cuba.

Crew, passengers and cargo created a mixed lot. In the 1850s, the former would be made up of just about whoever the skipper could find to sail with him. Most of the passengers on the fatal cruise, according to the findings of Columbus-America, "... had made the trip all the way from San Francisco and the voyagers included established businessmen,

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a popular stage performer, a former federal judge and many newly-rich prospectors. A trade shipment of gold coins was also on board, with a recorded 1857 value of $1,219,189." Records show the *Central America* sailed from Havana on September 8, 1857 with a crew of 103 plus 478 passengers.

A hurricane chart of the western North Atlantic Ocean, published in 1848 for the years 1804 to 1840, shows seven hurricanes in various Augusts and three each in Septembers and Octobers of that period. Another meteorological chart of the North Atlantic, this one published in September 1909, shows 11 hurricanes in that month during the years 1903 through 1908. This chart also states, "September and October are the months of maximum frequency of West India hurricanes. These storms usually move in a west-northwesterly direction and travel about 400 miles a day." The warning about violent storms went on to say, "During the period 1878-1907, 34 hurricanes have been traced in September and 30 in October." When the *Central America* sailed from Havana on that fateful September day, she was heading into hurricane waters during the peak of the West India hurricane season.

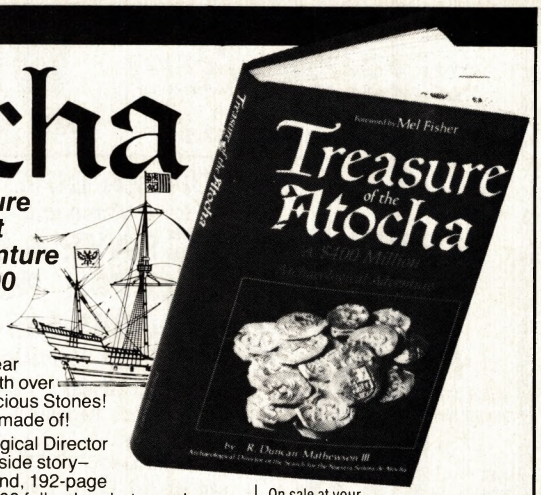
It didn't take the vessel long to find one. The *Central America* steamed into a violent West Indies hurricane when only three days out of Havana. During the first day of the storm the vessel rode out the winds and waves with no damage. On the second day she began to take on water and a fatal domino effect began. First, the boiler fires were flooded. There was no more steam. With no steam, the engines stopped. Since the bilge pumps were driven by the engines, they too, stopped and could no longer be used to control the flooding. For the next 30 hours passengers and crew heroically manned a bucket brigade that kept the obviously sinking vessel afloat until all 31 women and 29 children as well as 39 of the male passengers and crewmen were evacuated to a nearby sailing vessel. By then the *Central America* could no longer be kept afloat and she sank just after dark on September 12, 1857. Fifty-four men were later recovered from the still rough sea but a total of 428 passengers and crew and all of the cargo were lost. The vessel sank to the bottom in 8,000 feet of water on what is now called Blake Plateau, some 200 miles off the Florida coast.

FINDING THE VESSEL

The first step in finding any sunken vessel is one of extensive research. The Columbus-America Discovery Group gathered historical data on the *Central America* through the painstaking efforts of 11 in-house researchers. They reported, "Though widely scattered, many details of the ship, the crew, the passengers and the disaster proved to be well documented. Sources included survivor and

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TECHNIFACTS

witness accounts, government documents, newspapers and magazines and historical works.

Modern mathematical theories of sea search, formerly applied in navy and Coast Guard operations, were used. All of the information that had been gathered was entered into a data correlation index from which a reliable profile of the ship's course, the effects of the hurricane that sank her and the ultimate site of the sinking could be determined—and a target area plotted. This was mapped according to areas of probability. The Columbus-America Discovery Group then chartered and outfitted a ship to survey and image the ocean floor. The key piece of electronics in this phase of the search was a Sea Marc 1A wide-swath, sidescan sonar system. It can cover a swath 5,000 meters (3.6 miles) wide as it is towed 500 meters (0.36 mile) above the seabed.

In the summer of 1986 the Sea Marc quickly proved the importance and accuracy of the historical research. On only the second pass across the search area the system detected a cultural deposit. Subsequent high resolution passes produced a series of sonar images with the distinct features of a sidewheel steamship. Two things aided the search efforts. First, the Blake Plateau is virtually a featureless submarine plain on which any object will show up on sidescan sonar. Secondly, the *Central America* settled to the ocean bottom in an upright position. Another bonus is, of course, there is little corrosion or deterioration of a vessel at a depth of 8,000 feet.

Columbus-America Discovery Group reported, "Artifacts were recovered from the site in July 1987, and an Admiralty proceeding has been commenced in federal court to protect the group's right to continue recovery operations." Later the report stated, "Although detailed knowledge of the discovered ship already exists, there are many questions about its condition and about the ocean bottom environment that will be explored."

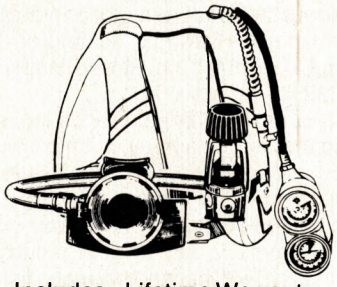
The research potential for the current recovery program of the *Central America* is considerable. The group has set goals that go well beyond standards for an historical project. The report continued, "While the current worksite is essentially historical in nature, the group is taking the opportunity to develop techniques for future use on archaeological sites such as Spanish galleons. As with the search program, scientists and other experts from various disciplines will be invited to participate in the recovery program to the extent that they might contribute to the ongoing research or propose projects that are feasible to include."

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The operations leading to the discovery, exploration and recovery of artifacts from the wreck of the *Central America* were funded by a private limited partnership. Equally commendable, the group pledges to apply appropriate standards for scientific research to recapture and preserve historical data and artifacts wherever possible, and to widely disseminate scientific information. The group also stated a fact that is often overlooked. "The economic wealth represented by many historic shipwrecks provides support for the kind of scientific research and technological development that will facilitate access to the deep ocean and other resources residing there."

CONCLUSION

The seas are high risk environments and it is not possible to sail or work on them without risk to life and property. Some areas are at higher risk than others. Casualty lists of vessels lost through the centuries bear this out. It has been estimated, conservatively I think, that there has been an average of at least one vessel lost per day for at least the past 3,000 years; more than one million vessels now lie on the ocean floor. As an example of losses: From 1976 through 1980, a period of only five years, a total of 1,956 vessels of 100 or more tons were lost at sea. At least another 1,000 vessels of less than 100 tons were also lost. Weather conditions still account for most ship losses of vessels under 100 tons, just as the weather has been responsible for vessel losses since the beginning of ocean voyaging. Fire and explosions account for the loss of the highest percentage of vessels of more than 500 tons.

In the period 1972 through 1981 less than 90 undersea archaeological sites were being worked by marine archaeologists. Untold hundreds of other sites are known and untold thousands more are yet to be found. It seems to me it is imperative, if these sites are to be studied and recovered, that everything possible be done to encourage private groups to enter into the business of research, search, study and recovery of these bits of history. It appears the Columbus-America Discovery Group has developed an operational philosophy that can safely recover information with private funding—and with a business approach where rewards for the very large investment needed can be recouped through the recovery of a "treasure," whatever that might be. There are more of the required skills, more required knowledge and more potential funding available in private groups than in the limited number of quasi-governmental or university marine archaeological groups. It is unthinkable that private individuals and organizations be banned from exploring and developing the historical data that may be found in some of these long abandoned wreck sites.

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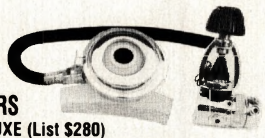
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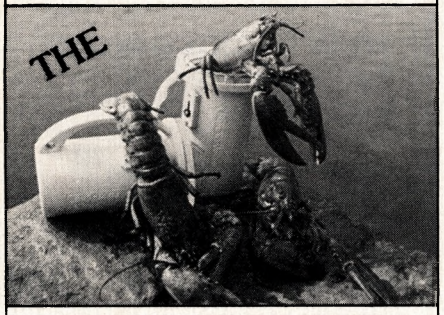
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WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 20)

washed ashore along their beaches and old-timers told of hearing a ghostly whistle and seeing lights through the swirling snow the day the ship sank. None of the bodies of the 25 people aboard ship was ever found. A small community in Cheshire Township was named Chicora, making the ship a permanent part of Allegan County lore. Divers who want to learn more about the *Chicora* might contact the Allegan County Historical Society or Jim Levandoski, 3164 13th Street, Hopkins, MI 49328.

Judy Halas, Key Largo, Florida is coordinating a research survey on shipwrecks in and around the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary for the Marine Resources Development Foundation. Judy writes: "Hopefully, the tangible results of this research will be an inventory listing the names, dates of loss and locations of shipwrecks within the general area of the Upper Keys with specifics on the KLNMS. We'll try to identify known wrecks and locations of historical artifacts such as anchors, cannons, ballast, etc. Our goals are to preserve and study the cultural resources, provide interpretive information to the public and make a data base available for research in marine archaeology. We might also be able to reduce diving pressure within the KLNMS by promoting alternative dive sites." Anybody interested in helping Judy identify wrecks in this area may contact her at 172 Loreland Place, Key Largo, FL 33037.

Gary Gentile, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania says he is a member of a newly formed East Coast club whose divers are wreck enthusiasts. Gary heads the Wreck Research Committee. "Our purpose," he writes, "is to collect and collate as much data as possible on wrecks we dive, including statistics, history, casualties, photos, etc." For starters, each committee member has taken one wreck for thorough research. If you are interested in joining this group, call Chuck Wine, president at (609) 778-8888.

Divers be forewarned of what I consider some suspicious promotions for treasure expeditions. Promises of "enormous riches and excitement" are flooding newspapers and magazines since the discovery of treasure ships in Florida, Maine and Delaware. I asked the head of one outfit, advertising memberships for $5,000, if I could see the location first. He assured me I could, but when he discovered I write about shipwrecks, I never heard from him again. If you are planning to make any kind of treasure hunting investment, check the group thoroughly. Write to me if you encounter any suspicious offers and I will check them also.

Treasure is not as easy to come by as a lot of promoters would have you believe.

Mark Stanton and Bob Michelson, Halifax, Massachusetts are producing and co-hosting a television series on New England diving. The episodes, airing on New England Sports Network, were so successful that station directors asked for more. That's when Stanton and Michelson became syndicated and shot footage in New York, New Jersey, Nova Scotia and other northern dive areas. The New England show features exciting dives on the passenger steamer *Horatio Hall*, the Revolutionary War's *General Arnold* and the oil tanker *Chester Poling*. These and several other wrecks have been consolidated into a special wreck diving presentation (VHS $39.95 plus $2 postage). For more information, write to Mark Stanton, Divers Down, Inc., P.O. Box 288, Halifax, MA 02338.

There's another video, Scuba Run, produced by Photon Video Company, Miami, Florida that shows some scenes of the *Hilma Hooker*. The *Hooker* is a 236 foot drug smuggling freighter sunk a couple of years ago off Bonaire by Don Stewart, Dave Serlin and Andre Nahr. She rests on her starboard side, 90 feet deep in a narrow sand channel between reefs. If you want to see her on Scuba Run, send $39.95 plus $3.50 postage and handling to John Taylor, Photon Video Company, P.O. Box 331533, Miami, FL 33233.

Safe diving to all. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to: Ellsworth Boyd, 1120 Bernoudy Rd., White Hall, MD 21161.

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Divers who love Grand Cayman's southwest ironshore coast location and offshore diving will be happy to hear that South Cove (formerly Casa Bertmar) has been purchased by the Foster family of Grand Cayman and is now undergoing major reconstruction and expansion as Coconut Harbour Resort.

Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd. has acquired the dive operation at Coconut Harbour and the expansion and development of that project is under the supervision of manager of dive operations Allen Bloomrosen.

Major changes have already begun at the site and construction is underway on 35 rooms, with a planned second phase of 15 rooms scheduled for 1988. The old buildings have been torn down, a restaurant, seafront thatched roof bar, swimming pool and tennis courts will be a part of the new facility. The dive shop will be expanded and upgraded with a new compressor and two new boats. For information contact Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd., P.O. Box 151, Grand Cayman, BWI; (809) 949-7025.

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P.O. Box 1663, Key Largo, FL 33037 MM 99.5 U.S. 1 past Wendy's
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CAPT. SLATE'S ATLANTIS DIVE CENTER 800/331-DIVE
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Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool & Boat Ramp. $475.00/week.

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Lobster diving, spearfishing, rentals & air.

DIVE 7 MI REEF, Bed & Breakfast, Airport pickup, Custom Dives, Native Guides, Wreck & Night Dives, Spearfishing Family & Group Plans. All you need is a bathing suit. Tortuga Adventures, Box 671, Key West, FL 33040 305/296-7748.

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P.O. Box 391, Tavernier, FL 33070 6 pass. dive boats.
5-STAR facility & dive charters, 4 day instr. & specialties. Reefs, wrecks, spearfish, Pennekamp & more.

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Free dockage & boat ramp, waterfront cottage, rooms with stove & refrigerator, picnic & barbeque area.

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Beautiful reef & wreck diving trips-Largest store & instruction. facility in the Keys—motel/condo diving packages arranged.

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Complete dive packages, 42' dive boat, dive shop, scuba lessons, dockage, ramp, pool, complimentary coffee and much more!

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PENNEKAMP PARK CONCESSION 305/451-1621
P.O. Box 1560, MM 102.5, Key Largo, FL 33037 FL 800/432-2871
The only dive shop located directly in Pennekamp.
Free brochure, send 50¢ for reef chart.

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I Learned About Diving From That

Decent To The Depths

BY CARROL MARINO

I am an experienced diver. I have logged more than 600 dives in 10 years. I have had equipment failures and been diving under adverse conditions without once ever panicking or losing control. I have nerves of steel and have proven to myself and my friends that I can remain calm when in trouble underwater.

And, that self-confidence and "macha" attitude almost proved my undoing. Two years ago I was on a dive cruise in Belize. The water was warm, the ocean flat, the reefs colorful and covered with marine life—perfect diving conditions. The crew on the boat recognized that all of us in our small group were experienced divers. They expected us to log in and out of the water and watch our bottom times, but no one in our group required baby sitting. We were all U/W photographers with many years of diving experience.

The boat anchored every morning by a different wall in a shallow area with a deep drop-off, then moved to another location each night. I was averaging five to six dives a day, carefully following the no-decompression tables. We were many hours from shore and the Belize City Airport. The nearest recompression chamber was probably in Miami. I have been diving in many remote places and always respected that travel to a chamber was not something one could rely on, and Belize was about as remote as one could get. I followed the tables religiously all week and hung on the line after every dive for extra security.

Why I ever threw all caution to the wind and almost remained forever in the depths of the Central American ocean, I will never fully understand. It was our last day and we only had time for one dive before heading back to shore. I had been diving as deep as 130 feet occasionally through the years, as well as on this trip, but always watched my depth and time.



photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

I had never been "narked" in the dives I had made below 100 feet. The morning of our last dive, some irrational voice within me told me to bounce dive to 150 feet, since I had never been that deep before and we were on a drop-off that descended hundreds of feet. I even told my dive buddy my plan. She didn't object; she knew I was an experienced diver.

We entered the water and swam over to the ledge and slowly descended. Both of us were taking pictures and our descent was gradual. I periodically checked my depth gauge until it read 150 feet and I stopped there and took several photos.

At least I thought I stopped there. What I didn't realize was that my depth gauge was a 150 foot model: It could not show depths below 150 feet. Also, I was totally narked and sinking deeper and deeper, completely oblivious to my depth and bottom time. I was contentedly taking pictures and having a wonderful time. My dive buddy was swimming above me, taking photos and paying little attention to me. She was shallower than I was and seeing such a great distance between us, assumed she wasn't very deep. She was also narked.

I think it's possible that the two of us might have continued to blissfully sink deeper and deeper. I, who could handle any difficult underwater situation without panicking, might have died from rapture of the deep.

That I did not descend to unlimited depths was thanks to a fellow diver, who was swimming back to the boat. He looked down and saw my buddy at 150 feet and then looking back, he saw me even farther below. He waved at us both. My buddy swam to him; I merely waved back, kept taking photos and kept sinking. My rescuer finally had to swim down to me and pull me up toward the surface. I didn't quite understand what was happening, but I could see his anger through his mask. Somewhere on the ascent I began to realize that I had been narked and gone deeper and stayed longer than I had planned. I had no idea how deep I had been and could not have calculated necessary decompression stops. My rescuer took me to 20 feet and wrote on a slate how long I had to remain there, and then how long to stay at 10 feet. I later learned I had been at 180 feet, all the while thinking I was at 150.

I was lucky. I did not drown. I didn't get bent. I didn't cause harm to my rescuer.

I now have a depth gauge that reads to 200 feet. It has a maximum depth indicator so if I sink a little while photographing, at least I will know it. I never have been below 130 feet again nor do I wish to do so. I recognize that while I may never be injured by panicking, there are underwater situations where I may still involuntarily lose control of my senses. I have gained a different kind of diving experience—insight into my limitations.

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